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NEWSWATCH



Waiting for Waite

David Waite, brother of kidnapped envoy Terry Waite, plays in the crypt of the Chapel of the Cross in the old Coventry Cathedral on March 29 during the filming of the programme "Highway." The programme which was broadcast yesterday contains an interview with David where he talks about the strain on the family with their three year wait for news about Terry Waite (Reuter wirephoto)



Again... No!

MOSCOW, April 15. (UPI): Lithuania's leaders met yesterday to discuss a Soviet threat to cut off key supplies and the republic's president again rejected Moscow's two-day ultimatum to rescind a declaration of independence.

Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis (above) repeated after a meeting of the presidium of the republic's council of ministers that the republic would not meet today's deadline set by Moscow for independence measures to be revoked.

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Hussein ends fast: The leader of a political party of Indian immigrants ended a hunger strike Saturday that he launched six days ago demanding several supporters be released from jail.

Atta Hussain's hunger strike ended Saturday after a four-hour meeting with Fakhruddin Ibrahim, governor of the troubled southern province of Sindh. Ibrahim is a member of the governing Pakistan People's Party, which dominates the provincial assembly. (AP)

Mitterrand pledges smooth flow: Radio Israel claimed on Sunday that French President Francois Mitterrand had promised his country would do all in its power to ensure smooth flow of Soviet Jews to Israel.

Mitterrand's pledge of help was continued in a message received by Israeli caretaker Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, according to the radio, monitored in Kuwait by Kuna.

The French president allegedly said the flood of Soviet Jewish emigrants must not be interrupted by any kind of hurdles. (Kuna)

20 die in black infighting: Twenty people were killed in an uprising of black faction fighting in a virtual battle zone of South Africa's Natal province. During the past 24 hours, police reported on Sunday.

More than 400 people have died in Natal since the beginning of February in the most serious fighting for years between the Zulu-based Inkatha movement and their rivals in groups allied to Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).



Princess smiles

Princess Stephanie of Monaco smiles to her boyfriend, Jean Yves Le Fur on Sunday in Monaco during the boxing world championships Gianfranco Rosi (Italy) vs Kevin Daigle (USA). (Reuter wirephoto)

Beware of bomb campaign: Delhi

Troops arrest 150 in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, April 15. (Agencies): Delhi police told the public today to be on the lookout for more bombs in the Indian capital after three exploded in a week.

Kashmiri militants fighting Indian rule claimed responsibility for all three in an expansion of their campaign beyond the disputed Himalayan region.

Pakistan said yesterday it had put its forces on alert and was ready to meet an invasion from India, where senior officials say Delhi has no intention of starting a war but is ready to meet a Pakistani attack.

The Delhi police warning, published in newspapers, gave special telephone numbers for reports of suspicious objects and told people to check their cars, especially if parked on the streets, before getting into them.

The Delhi bombs marked the first time the secessionist campaign has affected life outside Jammu and Kashmir, predominantly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.



Kashmiri Muslims fighting for independence from India demonstrate in old Srinagar city on Friday to protest against alleged police excesses during house searches by security forces. More than 200 people have died in violence in the state since mid January. (Reuter wirephoto)

Dayan blocked '67 plan

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 15. (Reuter): Israel pursued setting up a Palestinian state in the occupied West Bank in 1967 but dropped the idea because of opposition by then-defense minister Moshe Dayan, a retired Israeli intelligence agent says.

Unlike its current role battling the Palestinians' drive for independence, the Shin Bet internal security service was the key vehicle in 1967 for Israel's plan for a Palestinian state, David Rosen, the agency's former Jerusalem and West Bank commander, wrote in his recently published memoirs.

"We could have set up a Palestinian state then," Rosen told *Maariv* newspaper's weekend magazine, suggesting Israel lost a precious chance for peace at a time when the PLO was weak and the West Bank was free of Jewish settlers.

He said that shortly after the 1967 Middle East war, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol instructed the Shin Bet to probe the Palestinians' readiness for their own state that would be formed following a period of self-rule.

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Local newspapers today carried a statement from the powerful Jammu and Kashmir Students Liberation Front calling on residents to stage massive protests once the curfew is relaxed.

On Saturday, an Islamic militant group released Amrullah Khan, 75, a former state legislator who had been abducted on Friday from his home in Shopian, 60 kilometres (37 miles) northeast of Srinagar, capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

Pakistan has accused India of putting a large strike force in a base in the Rajasthan desert only 80 km (50 miles) from the border. Indian officials said that was where the unit was normally based.

Iranians held

DUBAI, April 15. (Kuna): Dubai police today arrested 11 Iranians who tried to enter the United Arab Emirates (UAE) illegally.

The infiltrators were arrested when they arrived in a launch which carried them to this emirate from the other side of the Gulf.

In a related development, police apprehended 23 people for residing unlawfully.

Cory won't last, say rebels; fugitive caught

MANILA, April 15. (UPI): Military rebels warned yesterday against US intervention in their bid to topple President Corazon Aquino, whom they said will "definitely not be able" to complete her six-year term ending in 1992.

In a statement sent to news agencies, the underground revolutionary Alliance for the Masses-Soldiers of the Filipino People accused Aquino's government of corruption and lack of political will to institute reforms.

"Aquino will definitely not be able to finish her term as an illegitimate president and collaborating governor-general of the US government," the statement said. "Just wait and see... it is most quiet before the storm unleashes its full fury."

The rebel group said it has never targeted US installations or personnel, but warned that Washington will be blamed for actions they will take against Americans.

"For as long as they leave us Filipinos alone in settling our internal problems, then they are not our enemy," the statement said.

The statement said that in case of intervention, the rebels "are willing to give them a fight that they will never forget."

Troops captured a renegade leader of last December's coup attempt and raided an office building in a Manila

Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

So far, a peace plan put forward by Israel's caretaker Premier Yitzhak Shamir is only for elections and limited self-rule on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

US Secretary of State James Baker is trying to get a Palestinian-Israeli peace dialogue under way in Cairo to set the terms of the elections. But Israel is refusing to talk with any Palestinians connected to the PLO.

The Palestinian leader conceded the existence of "minor differences" with the Islamic movement Hamas in the occupied territories, and warned against any group that might try to replace the PLO.

Arafat cautioned against Iranian attempts to control the Palestinian Islamic movement "with a view to disrupting the Palestinian position."

He was referring to threats by Hamas leaders that the group would sabotage any settlement that stops short of liberating all of Palestine, which would mean Israel as well as the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

■ Israeli Army today imposed curfews on the Gaza Strip city of Rafah, Sheikh Radwan district in Gaza City and Al Shati, Jabalia, Khan Younis and Briej refugee camps.

Radio Israel said the army took this step in anticipation of protest actions.

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A military report said Capt. Leovic Dioneda had been arrested yesterday near his house in Sorsogon province, 230 kilometres (170 miles) southeast of Manila.

Dioneda, administrative officer of the Philippine Constabulary, is charged with commanding two passenger buses and reinforcing rebel troops during the Dec. 1 coup attempt.

■ Communist and government forces clashed in a northern Philippines province and 11 rebels and one soldier were killed, the military said today in Manila.

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INTERNATIONAL

Hawaii senator dies of cancer

WASHINGTON, April 15. (AP): US Senator Spark M. Matsunaga of Hawaii, who helped pave the way for a postwar generation of Japanese-American politicians, died today after a bout with prostate cancer. He was 73.

Matsunaga, who used a wheelchair when he cast his final votes on the Senate floor before last week's recess, died before dawn Easter Sunday at Toronto general hospital, nursing coordinator Olga Muir said.

His press secretary Ed Greaney said in Washington that Matsunaga had gone to an oncology clinic in Canada for treatment last week. The senator had announced in January that he was suffering from prostate cancer that had metastasized to the bone.

The son of Japanese immigrants, Matsunaga was a member of the All-Nisei Regiment that served in Europe during World War II. His battalion became part of the famed 442nd regimental combat team, the most decorated regiment in US history.

Matsunaga himself was twice wounded and received combat medals including the Bronze Star and Purple Heart with cluster.

While he was serving in the US military, many of Matsunaga's family members and friends were among the thousands of Japanese-Americans confined in US internment camps.

In 1971, Matsunaga sponsored legislation to repeal the emergency detention act, under which the camps were established.

"He will be remembered most for his vision of peace and his faith in the human heart," Hawaii Gov. John Waihee, a Democrat, said in a statement today. "In his memory we will carry on his quest. In his spirit we will strive for the highest of principles and the brightest of worlds."

Altaf ends week-long hunger strike

KARACHI, April 15. (Agencies): A powerful Pakistani opposition leader ended a week-long hunger strike last night, defusing a political crisis in Karachi.

Altaf Hussain's decision was greeted with wild applause by supporters and women activists who had surrounded

the Mohajir leader since he began his fast after a spate of political killings last weekend.

At least 19 people were killed in violence between youth activists of Hussain's Mohajir National Movement (MQM) and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's

Party (PPP). The decision followed hours of talks with the governor of Sindh province, Fakhrudin Ibrahim, who went to Hussain's bedside to broker an accord on talks between the warring groups.

Both sides have been looking for a face-saving formula to end the crisis

and Ibrahim made it clear he was acting on behalf of the Sindh government, Benazir and the president.

Hussain gave the government two weeks to meet his demands, but agreed that criminals involved in the political killings should be dealt with by the courts.

He began his fast to demand the release of MQM activists and arrest of the killers of his own supporters. A PPP leader later launched his own hunger strike.

Hussain's fast sparked fears of even greater violence in Sindh, but he told reporters it has averted more killings.

"If I had not started this fast and death thousands of people would have been killed," he said.

Army and paramilitary ranger continue to patrol Karachi, a city of eight million people that has seen repeated violence between the MQM and PPP in recent months.

Welcome Bengali new year

Baishakhi mela

DHAKA, April 15. (Reuters): Thousands of men, women and children, many wearing masks, danced in a joyful march in Dhaka to mark the Bengali new year's day today.

The street march, organised by students of the Bangladesh Academy of Fine Arts, was led by giant elephants, horses and other beasts made of clay and paper and drawn on wooden carriages.

They passed alongside lush green parks where radio and television performers sang welcome songs, recited poems and held rallies attended by thousands of listeners.

Many people attended discussions on the history, traditions and heritage of the Bengali nation and its culture.

Children and their mothers thronged stalls selling toys.

sweets and household utensils at fairs called Baishakhi mela, held in all towns and each of the country's 68,000 villages.

Pahela Baishakhi, the first day of the Bengali year, is one of the most auspicious festivals in both Bangladesh and the neighbouring Indian state of West Bengal.

Political rivals of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad sent greetings to Bangladeshi people, urging them to unite and launch a massive national movement to "overthrow Ershad and his corrupt and inert government."

Police said today one person was killed and 50 injured when a seasonal storm, called the Nor'wester, lashed the northern suburbs of Dhaka and northeast Sylhet area a few hours before the new year's advent.

Market sources said prices of most necessities including rice

and vegetables had gone up by at least 20 per cent over the past month.

Nepal reform talks begin

KATHMANDU, April 15. (Agencies): Angry crowds chanting "hang the killers" stoned a limousine carrying Nepal's Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand as key talks on political reforms opened today.

Witnesses said a huge crowd surrounded the building in central Kathmandu where the talks between the government and the opposition were taking place and the forces forced the limousine back into the complex.

The government of King Birendra were meeting a combined opposition group led by the Nepali Congress Party to discuss political reforms nine days after troops fired on crowds demanding democracy, killing at least 50 people.

The crowds demanded the prime minister's resignation. "He must resign this moment if not the crowd will not let him get out," a Congress official said.

The crowd had blocked all gates of the Royal Academy building where the talks were taking place and the situation was tense, witnesses said.

The Congress and seven communist parties grouped under the Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD) said between 150 and 200 were killed in the April 6 shooting. The government has put the death toll at six.

Birendra afterwards lifted a 30-year ban on political parties but the MRD accused him of stalling the reform process to preserve his powers.

King Birendra had agreed to discuss the opposition demands Friday during a meeting with movement leader Ganesh Man Singh of the Nepali Congress Party.

Also today, eight medical professionals began a hunger strike to press for the resignation of Home Minister Nain Bahadur Swarup, whom they said was ultimately responsible for doctors who were injured and mistreated during the violent pro-democracy protests.

King Birendra, appearing in public yesterday for the first time since violent protests wracked the Himalayan kingdom, asked his countrymen to safeguard democracy and said he was sorry people died during the successful six-week reform movement.

"We are confident that proper understanding and respect for the norms of democracy by all Nepalis will safeguard the values and ideals of democracy in Nepal for all time to come," the Hindu monarch said in a national message marking the Nepalese new year's day.

King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya appeared at a new year's day ceremony where he conferred decorations on 135 people, a royal palace announcement said. The king had not been seen publicly for weeks.

"The loss of life and destruction of property have saddened us," the king said. "Politics in Nepal have now taken a new turn."

At least 52 people died during the democracy movement that was launched Feb 18 by the Nepali Congress Party and seven factionalized communist parties.

The government announced that it would offer compensation for the deaths by giving \$519 to each of the families of those killed.

Hindus flocked to crowded temples early in the morning to offer prayers for the new year.

Birendra met Friday in the royal palace with Ganesh Man Singh, who said later the king was considering the opposition demands.

Pakistan judge appointed rector

ISLAMABAD, April 15. (Kuma): Chief justice of the supreme court Mohammad Afzal Zulah has been appointed as rector of the International Islamic University in Islamabad, according to a university announcement.

He will work as rector on an honorary basis in addition to his own duties as the chief judge of Pakistan's most superior court.

The announcement said that Zulah's appointment had been made by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, in his capacity as chancellor of the International Islamic University for a period of five years.



King Birendra (right) presents Field Marshal Shamsheer with the country's highest decoration of the year. (Reuters wirephoto)



King Birendra (right) talks to party workers coming to greet him April 12. (Reuters wirephoto)

India's buildup drive

No peace dividend

NEW DELHI, April 15. (AP): Arms reduction may be the order of the day for the superpowers, but India's drive to become the next military giant has scuttled hopes of a "peace dividend" in economically strapped South Asia.

India's neighbours, especially Pakistan, are following its lead in the buildup. Western military analysts and Indian intellectuals fear another chapter of an expensive regional arms race is about to begin.

While the Soviet Union withdraws troops from Eastern Europe and the United States plans defense cuts, Indian defense budget for 1990 is more than 10 percent above last year.

Between 1985 and 1989, India bought more weapons — \$17.3 billion worth — than any country in the world.

In response, Pakistan's President Ghulam Ishaq Khan vowed to continue stockpiling advanced weapons. Pakistan already allocates 52 percent of its \$6.8 billion federal budget for defense. China recently announced a defense spending increase of 15.2 percent over 1989.

"There will be no peace dividend in South Asia," said Ian Anthony, an expert on the Indian military at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute in Sweden. "India thinks a strong military will give it international prestige. I think they've got it wrong."

Anthony and other Western military analysts say India is the engine driving the arms buildup in the region. More important than recent tensions with Pakistan, they say, is India's desire to achieve military might.

"India already has enough troops to smother Pakistan in a protracted war," said a Western military official in New Delhi. "They have their sights on long-term military role."

Western economists and Indian intellectuals say the buildup is harming India's economy and the economies of the region's other developing countries.

India already has fallen behind in the world's economic race.

Pakistan has the highest per capita Gross National Product in the region, only \$350 a year, and a host of domestic problems that include a burgeoning drug trade and ethnic violence.

Bangladesh and Nepal, two of the poorest countries in the world, spend large amounts of their foreign exchange on weapons.

Some say India is seeking entry into the mighty club for reasons of pride.

"Weaklings are not honoured. We want to be strong," A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, father of India's first intermediate-range ballistic missile, said soon after the rocket's test firing last May.

Others feel India wants to assume the role its former colonial masters, the British, once played in South Asia. India is not seeking to colonize the region, they say, but it wants to be viewed as the protector of its smaller neighbors.

"The British dominated the subcontinent. They guaranteed its security," said Girish Deshpande, director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies. "India's military wants to do the same."

The fall of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi late last year led development experts to hope that the defense budget, which has jumped 400 percent in a decade, might be cut.

But troubles with Pakistan strengthened the military lobby, experts said, and hopes that Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government would channel more money to education and health soon evaporated.

On March 19, the new government announced a 10.5 percent rise in defense spending to \$9.3 billion. The bulk of the increase went for arms purchases.

In a speech late last month, India's chief of naval staff, Adm. J.G. Nadkarni, argued that military might, not economic development, was the key to power.

"There are few things that India can do that can get this country greater leverage with the great powers than interfere with their plans," Nadkarni said.

The mere capability to interfere with superpower movement in international waters, he said, would cause them to think twice before crossing India diplomatically.

"It's basic gunboat diplomacy," said one Western military officer. "We don't think it will work."

With 1.4 million men, India has the fourth-biggest military in the world, after the Soviet Union, China and the United States. The Indian Air Force, with 870 planes, ranks third behind Moscow and Washington in heavy combat aircraft capacity.

India has built a "blue water navy," floating four aircraft carriers with British-made Harrier "jump jets."

In 1988, a Soviet-made nuclear submarine joined India's 16 conventional subs.

Since winning independence from Britain in 1947, India's soldiers, not diplomats, have played the key role in most foreign policy crises.

A border dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir led to war in 1948 and again in 1965. In 1971, India's military intervention in the Pakistani civil war helped create a new nation when East Pakistan split from West Pakistan and became Bangladesh.

In 1961, India annexed Goa, a Portuguese colony on its western coast, by sending in the army.

The next year, a border dispute with China brought India its only major defeat. China seized 38,000 sq kms (1,500 sq miles) during the short war. Middle-aged Indians still talk about the humiliation. And, despite improving ties, China is seen as a threat.

In Salmiya's Brightest Spot...

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INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1990

Poison threat halts production of zentel

Extortionist demands \$1 million

PARIS, April 15. (AP): A drug company halted production at its factory yesterday and ordered its products off drugstore shelves after tests showed that an extortionist poisoned some of its medicine with sulphuric acid.

Smith Kline and French, subsidiary of the US company Smithkline Beecham, said the poison was detected in a bottle of zentel, an anti-parasitic medicine exported throughout the Third World.

The tests were conducted following threats from an extortionist

Zentel is produced only for export, but the company announced a temporary halt of production of all medicines at its factory in Limay, outside Paris. It also imposed a quarantine on sales of all products made at the factory since March 15.

The steps were taken after the extortionist, seeking to back up initial telephoned threats, informed the company last Tuesday that a bottle of zentel had been contaminated and explained how to find it, Smith Kline said.

After experts confirmed the presence of sulphuric acid in the bottle, the Health Ministry was alerted and protective measures were worked out, Morin said.

"The steps which immediately were taken provided full guarantees in regard to the safety of the public," the company said. It said police were investigating.

The company said more than 30 different medicines were affected by the quarantine, including synthol, an antiseptic solution widely used in France in lotions and mouthwash. No information was disclosed on the possible financial impact of the company's steps.

In 1982, seven people in the Chicago area died after consuming cyanide-tainted tylenol, a pain reliever. The case has never been solved.

Johnson and Johnson, which owned McNeil Consumer Products, the manufacturer of tylenol, withdrew the pain relievers from the market after the poisonings broke out.

Many analysts thought the product tampering would ruin Johnson and Johnson, but the quick withdrawal of its products seemed to reassure the public, and the company rebounded financially.

In a copycat case, a Seattle-area woman put cyanide in another pain reliever, killing her husband and a stranger. Stella Nickell received a 90-year prison sentence in 1988 for the poisonings.

6 die from toxic heroin

MARSEILLE, April 15. (AP): Six young drug addicts have died and four have been paralysed in the past 10 days after using a heroin-based compound contaminated with a toxic substance, police said today.

Newspapers suggested the poison might be strychnine, because 100 grammes of the chemical was stolen from a Marseille pharmacy on March 30. But police said laboratory tests remain inconclusive, and they are unsure whether someone is deliberately trying to cause deaths.

Shooting in subway recalls Bernhard

NEW YORK, April 15. (Reuters): The case of a subway robbery victim who shot and killed one of his attackers has echoes of the 1984 subway shooting by "subway vigilante" Bernhard Goetz.

Police are appealing to the gunman, a middle-aged white man, to turn himself in, but Goetz' lawyer is urging him not to do so.

"If I were the innocent victim, or the so-called 'second Bernhard Goetz,' I'd probably be in a plane to Florida — where most anybody who is a resident can buy a gun and carry one," lawyer Barry Slotnick told Reuters yesterday.

"New York is archaic — we only allow our criminals to carry guns," he added.

According to witnesses, the man fired three shots at a gang of black youths who attacked him on Thursday night, killing their leader with one bullet in the chest. Then he calmly walked off the train when it pulled into the next stop.

The dead man, Ricky Pickett, 25, of Brooklyn, had a criminal record dating back to 1981 that included four robbery convictions, police said.

The incident has parallels to the Goetz case, in which the 37-year-old electrical engineer shot and wounded four youths he said threatened him with weapons including sharpened screwdrivers and asked him for \$5.

The case attracted international attention as an example of vigilanteism in the face of growing urban crime.

But police say there are significant differences this time, particularly the fact the middle-aged man was robbed and beaten at knifepoint before he drew his gun.

"This is not the Bernhard Goetz case. This is a man who clearly was being robbed and being attacked by a young man acting in a clearly irrational manner," said Brooklyn chief of detectives Joseph Demarco.

Goetz turned himself in nine days after the incident and eventually stood trial. He was acquitted in 1987 of attempted murder and assault charges, but was convicted of possession of an unlicensed gun and served 250 days in jail.

Police have appealed to the mystery man to turn himself in, saying he is being considered a victim — although he could face charges if his gun is not registered. No gun has been recovered.

But Slotnick said that would probably change if the man were found.

"They may now be saying, 'don't worry about it,' but I don't trust it. I think they'll be forced to charge him because there's going to be a hue and cry that it was a racial attack," Slotnick said.

"We will be following the others just as soon as we can take off," said Mosley, who together with his wife Marilyn, is piloting a 1948 Beech Bonanza to retrace the old imperial airways mail route from England to Australia.

There were 24 starters in the epic 10,000-mile (16,000-km) rally which started March 25 from London, grouping ancient Cessnas, De Havillands, Bellancaas, Stinsons, Beeches and Pipers, among others.

Six were abandoned along the way due to crashes or engine problems, but no injuries were incurred.

Fifteen other veteran pilots flew out their aircraft in the Sultanate's desert heat earlier Saturday bound across the Gulf of Oman for an Easter Sunday group celebration on their next stop, Gwadar, Pakistan.

The squadron of pre-1950 single-engined aircraft took off from Seeb international airport, 30 miles (48 kms) from the capital in 70 per cent humidity and temperatures topping 102 degrees Fahrenheit (39 degrees Centigrade).

The fliers, two to three to each plane, are mainly Americans and Australians, mostly in their 60s and 70s. The women are members of the "99's", an international women fliers' association started in the United States by Amelia Earhart as a World War II support group for male pilots.

The Mosleys, in a telephone interview from Seeb, said their aircraft was undergoing main-



Twin students

School teacher Rashid Zainal (top) poses with his students, seven sets of twins at San Peng Secondary School in Kuala Lumpur on April 12. The school has a total of 11 sets of twins, frequently causing headaches to teachers who mistake one for the other, according to school headmaster Ganasa Murthi. (Reuters wirephoto)

Vintage air rally

Setback for US couple

MUSCAT, April 15. (AP): One more veteran flier temporarily dropped out yesterday from the world vintage air rally after mechanical problems grounded his plane in the southern Gulf Sultanate of Oman.

But 75-year-old grandfather Bob Mosley of Vashon Island, Washington was confident it was a minor setback.

"We will be following the others just as soon as we can take off," said Mosley, who together with his wife Marilyn, is piloting a 1948 Beech Bonanza to retrace the old imperial airways mail route from England to Australia.

The Mosleys took off from the United States on March 8 and have since flown through Canada, Europe and the Middle East to take part in the commemorative rally.

"We have obviously had to spend money on maintenance and repairs and special survival equipment to cross the Atlantic but it has all been worth it," said Bob. They hope eventually to touch down safely at home again on June 1 after nearly three months flying across the world.

"It has been a wonderful experience so far," said Bob. "There is a great camaraderie on the rally. We share equipment, offer each other a lot of advice and we work together as much as we can."

As a husband and wife team, there was an added difference.

"Obviously there is some arguing in the cockpit just as there would be driving together. But we are having a marvellous time," he said. "It is adventure and excitement, flying and romance all rolled into one."

There was what he called an "only low point," which was having to pay \$510 for landing fees and gas in Saudi Arabia.

"Landing in so many different places can also be very exasperating with a lot of hanging around, what I call 'hurry up and wait syndrome,'" Mosley said.

BELGRADE: A wild mushroom reportedly capable of restoring lost virility and enhancing fertility is causing quite a scramble among tourists in western Yugoslavia.

Hundreds of foreign visitors, mostly men, are tramping through fields and forests in search of the morel (Morelula Escalante), which grows in the region around Mount Romania in the Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Yugoslav new agency Tanjug said on Friday.

While the claim of restoring sexual prowess may be open to debate, the humble morel's powers to invigorate the tourist trade is beyond question.

Miraculous stories abound. Villagers tell visitors of the wife of a retired woodcutter who had 12 children, the last born when she was 53. Or there's 101-year-old Zala Sesija, mother of 10, whose husband died a few years ago but was full of vigor until his last day. (UPI)

ST LOUIS: An advocate for the homeless said he plans to serve free rabbit dinners Easter Sunday to remind people of the meaning of the religious holiday.

The Rev. Larry Rice, director of the New Life Evangelistic Center, said 800 people were expected to dine in front of Easter bunnies at shelters in St. Louis and Kansas City.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ commemorated on the Easter holiday has been forgotten by people who are worshipping a rabbit instead, Rice said.

"Millions of Americans on Easter day are going hungry while we idolize this little rabbit," Rice said on Saturday.

SINGAPORE: The flush or pay rule for public toilets will not be lifted despite a serious dry spell that has prompted the government to crack down on wasteful water consumption, officials said on Sunday.

"Public health cannot be compromised," an Environment Ministry spokesman said. "Toilets said on Saturday.

First time offenders who forgot to flush are fined \$75 and repeat offenders must pay \$250 under the mandate, imposed last year to crack down on anti-social toilet users.

Those who commit a third or subsequent offense are slapped with \$500 fine.

Undercover environmental health officials pretend to wash their hands or use urinals in public rest rooms in order to catch the offenders. (UPI)

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INTERNATIONAL

UK jail talks resume but no breakthrough

Fire hoses turned on rooftop protesters

MANCHESTER, England, April 15. (Reuters) Prison officials turned fire hoses on rooftop protesters at Strangeways jail in Manchester yesterday and inmates reacted angrily.

One prisoner holding out at Britain's longest jail siege warned that if authorities wanted to use water hoses the inmates would start fires in the building.

"Every time you do that, two more days," shouted Glyn Richards, who was soaked while staging a daily protest during a two-week-old siege.

Prison authorities, criticised for failing to retake the jail by force, said negotiations had resumed with the 13 men believed to be still in the jail, but there were no signs of a

breakthrough.

An apparent surrender agreement on Friday crumbled after the inmates decided at the last minute not to give themselves up.

Prison official Ian Lockwood said Governor Brendan O'Farrell, who described the April 1 riot at the jail as "an explosion of evil," was committed to finding a peaceful solution to the standoff.

One prisoner died in hospital after being beaten in the revolt and a prison officer died of a heart attack after attempting to stop rioting inmates taking over the jail.

Since the Strangeways riot, violence spread to other prisons around Britain, drawing attention to prisoners' grievances

about antiquated and overcrowded jails. The trouble at all prisons except Strangeways has now been brought under control.

Police are investigating the death of one prisoner whose charred body was found after fires broke out during a 24-hour siege at Dartmoor prison in southwest England last weekend.

The British Broadcasting Corp. showed footage of several prisoners standing on the prison's rooftop shaking their fists or waving to relatives. One inmate angrily threatened to continue the occupation until Tuesday.

Home Office spokeswoman Pam Teares said there was no guarantee the siege

would end on Easter today as one inmate had suggested in a message written on a roof slate he displayed Friday.

"They have said various things. We'll just wait and see what happens," she said.

Negotiators returned to their talks with inmates across Gateways and Stairwells that are blocked by wreckage created in the dispute, which began April 1. The 13 prisoners hold the central rotunda, from which they can control access to the jail's five main wings.

Authorities have been using loud music, sirens, swooping helicopters and other intimidatory tactics to try to break the resolve of the diehard inmates.

Mysterious man ignored warning

Danish ferry disaster probe

COPENHAGEN, April 15. (Agencies) A suspicious-looking man strolling about the burning Scandinavian Star ignored a warning to leave the ferry on which about 160 people died, a crew member told a court of inquiry yesterday.

In addition, the ship's Norwegian captain said in an interview that the fire bore the marks of an expert arsonist. "It looks professional," Captain Hugo Larsen said.

A major fire on the ship was set on a staircase where it could block key emergency exits, and an earlier fire may have served as a diversion so the main blaze could spread unhindered, Larsen said.

"That was a way to get the people away from where the fire really was," he said.

The inquiry, in its fourth day yesterday, is investigating the fire which engulfed the ferry a week ago as it sailed from Oslo to Denmark with about 500 people on board.



Wrestling woman

Devon Williams (left) wrestles with an unidentified woman in Boston's Dorchester neighbourhood on April 11 after he saw the woman and an accomplice allegedly trying to rob one of Williams' neighbours outside a chequer-cashing station. The woman was arrested, but her accomplice reportedly escaped with the money. (Reuters wirephoto)

White flags on French roads

PARIS, April 15. (Reuters) French drivers are being urged to fly white flags on their car aerials in the hope the traditional symbol of peace will help cut accidents on packed Easter roads.

By Saturday morning, 61 road deaths had been reported since midnight on Thursday, compared with last year's 68.

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Golfing in the rain

President George Bush, declaring golf good for the soul, took Denis Thatcher, husband of the British prime minister, golfing in a rainstorm on Saturday.

Bush, who completed a one-day round of golf with Margaret Thatcher on Friday, took his husband to the links for a round of golf — ignoring a sometimes heavy rain and wind gusts of more than 35 mph (55 kph).

"We wanted the press to walk around and get in shape," Bush said to a small group of journalists who watched parts of the contest.

Bush, who dodged reporters' questions about the latest developments in Lithuania, stopped to discuss why the president of the United States would get up early to stand in the rain and hit a small ball. (Reuters wirephoto)

Protesters burn bills

Tories face polls defeat

London, April 15. (Agencies) Britain's ruling Conservative Party, facing its biggest slump in opinion polls for decades, will lose a quarter of its local council seats in elections next month, according to a forecast published today.

The forecast in the Sunday Times said the Conservatives would lose up to 300 seats in the May 3 polls, seen as the biggest test of voter opinion since the 1987 general election.

The opposition Labour Party, with a 24-point lead over the Conservatives, should gain between 550 and 600 seats, according to the forecast carried out by the Polytechnic South West in Plymouth.

"The Tories (Conservatives) are threatened with a devastating set of results," the Sunday Times said.

Disastrous results for the Conservatives and massive gains for Labour could renew pressure on the leadership of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Thatcher's difficulties will be compounded a week after the elections when Britain's inflation figures for April are expected to rise to about 9.5 per cent.

Chancellor of the Exchequer

John Major said in his budget speech in March that a new tax is likely to add one per cent to April's inflation rate.

The deeply unpopular poll tax, a levy on every adult to pay for local government services, has caused violent protests around Britain and riots in London.

Thousands of anti-poll tax demonstrators took to the streets in cities across England yesterday for a series of peaceful protests in which some people burned their poll tax bills, reports said.

About 2,000 demonstrators marched at Halifax, west Yorkshire, about 200 miles (320km) north of London, the British Broadcasting Corp. said.

Demonstrators were shown tossing their poll tax bills into a container.

In nearby York, organisers told the BBC that they burned about 100 poll tax forms to show their contempt for the community charge — a highly unpopular new tax went into effect April 1 in England and Wales.

Similar demonstrations were reported in Brighton, Bath and Tunbridge Wells but with no reports of public disorder, the BBC said.

Chancellor of the Exchequer

until the incoming government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has taken over.

"The Sandinistas must first turn over their arms because they could wipe out the rebels," the 32-year-old rebel commander told the Associated Press in an interview Thursday in Los Chiles, a mountain town 130 miles (200 km) northeast of Managua.

Chamorro, who won election Feb. 25, is scheduled to be inaugurated president April 25. But the Sandinistas, led by President Daniel Ortega, have not set a firm date for relinquishing control over the military.

The Sandinistas, have warned that if the US

backed Contras refuse to disband, the transition to Chamorro's leadership could be threatened.

Nicaragua's Defence Ministry alleged yesterday that Contras had attacked government troops on Wednesday about 80 miles (130 km) north of the capital in Esteli province.

The Sandinista statement said three rebels died and two government soldiers were wounded in the attack. However, a British journalist quoted peasants in the province as saying that four Sandinista soldiers and one rebel were killed.

Israel Galeano, the Contra military leader known as Commander Franklyn, recently said in Honduras that his troops would continue fighting in this country.

Galeano was quoted as saying that he didn't believe the Chamorro government would be able to control the military, despite promises by the Sandinistas not to continue to exert political sway over the army.

Sanz said: "Our brother fighters have complete confidence in Franklyn's decision. He will guide us in the mountains where we are."

NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Christian science manslaughter trial: The case of a couple charged with killing their son by practising their faith may force juries to choose between protecting religious freedom and preserving the state's right to protect helpless children.

Jury selection begins Tuesday in Boston in the trial of David and Ginger Twitchell, a couple accused of manslaughter in the death of their 2-1/2-year-old son, Robyn.

The boy died in 1986 after his parents — Christian scientists who rely on spiritual healing rather than medical intervention — rejected medical care in favour of attempt to heal him through prayer.

The Twitchells' defense lawyers are basing their case on a 1971 Massachusetts state law that prohibits a child from being deemed neglected or lacking proper care solely because he is provided treatment "by spiritual means alone" through the practice of a recognised religious denomination. (UPI)

Border open to limited traffic: Engineers pored over a Canadian customs station Saturday, searching for structural damage from a late Friday earthquake that made the building "groan," and the border was reopened to limited truck traffic.

"Engineers from public works Canada are going over the building this morning," said Orville McCrea, district customs manager at the Pacific highway border crossing. "There have been reports that the structure's on the verge of collapsing, but so far, we haven't seen any damage. There was a lot of movement in this facility last night, it made the walls



Ready to fire

A member of the Colombian highway patrol stands with his gun ready to fire patrol a residential area in Medellin on Saturday. Some 30 officers have been killed in the last month in Colombia reportedly by drug traffickers. The authorities say the capture of drug dealer Pablo Escobar is imminent. (Reuters wirephoto)



Reagan addresses

Former president Ronald Reagan addresses the crowd during an April 12 ceremony in which a 6,000-pound piece of the Berlin Wall (above right) was donated to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library Foundation. (Reuters wirephoto)

Soviet gas leak

Dozens hurt

MOSCOW, April 15. (Reuters) A valve at a chemical plant in the Armenian capital of Yerevan exploded, spewing poisonous chloroprene gas into the air and forcing the evacuation of dozens of residents to hospital, local activists said.

A spokeswoman for the unofficial Armenian National Movement said the accident occurred at the city's Nairit chemical plant yesterday morning.

She said people from the surrounding neighbourhood were rushed to hospital, while others were treated at the scene.

There were no immediate reports of deaths and the leak was brought under control, she said.

year despite concerns over its human rights record, the chairman of an international oversight committee said Saturday in concluding a 10-day visit to Jakarta.

IP Pronk, the Netherlands' development minister and currently chairman of Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia, said he will recommend Jakarta receive at least its full annual share of \$4.3 billion in aid when IGGI member countries meet in June.

bees commonly used in the Americas for pollinating crops and producing honey.

The difficulty of managing Africanized bees eventually will cost US beekeepers \$29 million to \$38 million a year, the US Department of Agriculture estimates.

Africanized bees also are expected to reduce bee-pollinated crop production by five per cent to 10 per cent, costing farmers more than \$40 million a year.

US residents along the border aren't likely to notice much change, beyond seeing more wild colonies and swarms of bees looking for new sites, said Ms. Collins.

'Killer bees' expected in US

'Bees to buzz into Texas any day'

WESLACO, April 15. (AP) The first Africanized honey bees will arrive in the United States any day now, but scientists say the worst sting of the "killer bees" may be economic.

Researchers predict the bees will likely enter near the Mexican border city of Brownsville, Texas. In November, the bees were spotted 150 miles (240 km) south of the US border at Soto La Marina, Mexico.

None has been found near the border since, but their advance accelerates with spring, said Anita Collins, a bee researcher at the US Department of Agriculture's honey bee research lab at Weslaco.

These bees, descended from a

Sandinistas accuse rebels of attacking troops: Contras vow to remain armed

until the incoming government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro has taken over.

"The Sandinistas must first turn over their arms because they could wipe out the rebels," the 32-year-old rebel commander told the Associated Press in an interview Thursday in Los Chiles, a mountain town 130 miles (200 km) northeast of Managua.

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Sanz said: "Our brother fighters have complete confidence in Franklyn's decision. He will guide us in the mountains where we are."

US army to cut troops under budget plan

WASHINGTON, April 15. (Agencies): The US army would cut a quarter of its uniformed troops by 1997 and end or reduce 34 of its purchasing programmes under a budget plan approved last week, the Washington Post reported today.

Quoting an unnamed Pentagon official, the Post said the plan would cut the active-duty army from its present level of 764,000 to 580,000 troops under a five-year budget proposal.

Reserve and national guard forces would be cut from 776,000 to 645,000.

The official said the procurement programmes affected range from minor systems to major weapons but he declined to specify them.

The report did not give a figure for how much might be saved under the proposed budget for the 1992-97 fiscal years.

An army spokesman could not immediately be reached for confirmation.

The proposed budget was approved last week by Army Secretary Michael Stone and Army Chief of Staff General

Carl Vuono and has been sent on to Defence Secretary Richard Cheney, the newspaper said.

The Bush administration has proposed a \$306 billion military budget for the 1991 fiscal year.

The administration has been under congressional pressure to cut defence spending because of an apparently reduced Soviet military threat.

Troop and procurement decisions are the major part of the recommendations that Cheney has ordered the army to provide by the end of this month for

the 1992-97 Pentagon spending plan. The budget goes to Congress later this year or next year.

In hot pursuit of a so-called "peace dividend" amid lessened superpower tension, some lawmakers have called for cutbacks or even outright cancellation of high-cost weapons programmes, such as the \$530 million B-2 Stealth bomber. But savings can't be gleaned as quickly from long-term weapons programmes as they can from personnel accounts because weapons costs are stretched over a period of

many years.

So that leaves the manpower-intensive army, with the largest segment of the nation's 2.1 million-member military force, as the biggest target for possible budget savings.

"It's painful," said one senior department planner who is knowledgeable about the army's proposal. "It took some gut-wrenching decisions. But at least we have a plan."

Another source, who also spoke privately, said the proposal was forced upon the service by "fiscal reality."

even as he expressed concerns about pressures to go beyond the 580,000 level.

"That would bring us pretty close to a dysfunctional army," he said, given the national security requirement for a "trained and ready" force.

The senior official did not say how much savings were being projected from the manpower cut. It is difficult to project near-term savings from force reductions because of the possibility that severance pay may be allocated to more senior servicemen and women.

Pope opens Easter vigil

VATICAN CITY, April 15. (AP): Pope John Paul II ushered in Christianity's holiest day in the light of small candles held by thousands of faithful at Easter vigil services last night in St Peter's Basilica.

Preceded by cardinals and bishops in a slow procession toward the altar, the Pope carried before him a long white candle he lit to open the service commemorating the night Jesus Christ rose from the dead after his crucifixion.

The cavernous St Peter's Basilica, the largest church in Christendom, was dark and silent late yesterday as the procession moved toward the altar under the "Baldaquin," the baroque canopy designed by 17th century sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini.

After the third chanting of the "Lumen Christi" (Light of Christ), the congregation began lighting candles to symbolize the "pilgrimage from darkness to light."

Earlier Saturday, the Polish-born Pope met with an aide to Mikhail Gorbachev one day after the Soviet President threatened to impose an economic blockade on the rebellious Baltic Republic of Lithuania.

A Vatican spokesman, Monsignor Piero Pizzamiglio, said the 30-minute private audience was requested by Vadim Zagladin, a special adviser to Gorbachev. But the spokesman did not say whether it touched on the crisis in Lithuania, which declared independence from Moscow on March 11.

Casimir Lazoraitis, an official of the Lithuanian mission to the Holy See, said he had been informed by "informal contacts" that the pontiff's meeting included a discussion of Lithuania, but there were no details.

The Pope also sent an Easter message to Lithuania, which is 80 per cent Roman Catholic.

Mandela admits torture allegation

ANC dissidents anxious to return home

JOHANNESBURG, April 15. (Agencies): Nelson Mandela admitted yesterday that his African National Congress tortured dissident guerrillas, but said the officials involved were punished and a ban placed on any further torture.

Mandela, who made the surprising admission in a brief airport statement, said the claims of some ANC guerrillas that they had been tortured was true. He deplored the incident and promised it would not happen again.

"Unfortunately, it is true that some of these people who have complained were in fact tortured. But once the ANC became aware....

Liberian rebel chief besieged

MONROVIA, Liberia, April 15. (AP): Government forces tracked down guerrilla leader Charles Taylor and surrounded his hiding place yesterday, a senior officer said.

"Even if he (Taylor) escapes, we will go after him. And any other person who replaces him will also be killed," Brig. Gen. Charles Jusu said.

There was no independent confirmation of the government claim. Jusu also said his troops killed 100 rebels when they tried to retake Ganta, capital of embattled Nimba county.

Rebels led by Taylor invaded Nimba county from neighbouring Ivory Coast last Dec 24 in a bid to topple Liberian President Samuel Doe.

The fighting has forced more than 150,000 people to flee the country for Ivory Coast and Guinea.

International organisations have accused Liberian troops of slaying hundreds of civilians in trying to put down the rebellion. Guerrilla forces were accused of killing members of Doe's Krahn tribe in reprisal for the government killings.

Black infighting

20 killed in Natal

JOHANNESBURG, April 15. (UPI): Clashes broke out in the strife-torn province of Natal over the weekend, leaving at least 20 dead, including five killed when gunmen opened fire on people attending a funeral, police said today.

An official police statement reported 10 violent incidents in the past 24 hours, all but one in Natal province, but gave only scant details.

In the worst incident, 10 blacks were killed and two injured "in what appeared to be faction fighting" in the area of Ngubela, about 30 miles (50 km) inland from the southeastern Indian Ocean coastal town of Port Shepstone, the police report said.

In the area of Ngcawushe, also near Port Shepstone, the burnt body of a black woman was found.

Five others died in Ngcawushe when "shots were fired at a group of funeral goers," the report said. It said the shooting appeared to have been provoked by a land dispute.

Two other blacks were found burned to death and another black man shot to death was found in the black township of Mpumalanga midway between the Natal provincial capital of Pietermaritzburg and the port city of Durban.

Easter relief convoy

ADDIS ABABA, April 15. (Reuters): A consortium of church relief agencies will send an Easter relief convoy across Ethiopia's war-ravaged roads today in a trial run to extend its operation deeper into rebel-held territory.

Francis Stephanos, co-ordinator of the Joint Relief Partnership (JRP), told Reuters yesterday that 10 trucks with 110 tonnes of food will venture north to Mekelle, the provincial capital of northern Tigray province, past bombed bridges and around

flooded roads badly damaged by civil war.

A United Nations crew has been preparing detours with a bulldozer and will be on hand to pull trucks out of mud.

The trek to Mekelle, 275 km (170 miles) behind the front lines will mark the deepest foray yet into rebel territory for the JRP, which aims to deliver 130,000 tonnes of relief food to famine victims in northern Ethiopia this year.

The seven were attached to the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (spear of the nation), in Angola.

They said they mutinied against their leaders in 1984, were held in detention centers and Angolan prisons for four years and then moved to a Dakawa camp in Tanzania after being freed on "humanitarian" grounds.

They said they quit the military wing in Tanzania last December and fled to Nairobi. The seven say they want to return to South Africa.

Mandela attempted to minimize the incident by saying that South Africa's white-minority government routinely tortured and killed opponents. He said the ANC did not tolerate torture and stopped it immediately when the incidents were exposed.

"Large numbers of our people have been tortured and killed by the government. They are still being tortured today despite all our protests," he said.

A government commission has uncovered widespread evidence that South African police and military units systematically killed dissidents. The commission is still in progress and the government has not taken any official action on the charges.

Mandela also said the dissidents were not complaining against the ANC or himself, but against the security wing of the black nationalist organization.

"The ANC has responded, as any responsible organization will do when they discover such malpractices," he said.

Mandela made the statement after a brief airport meeting with European Community officials, who visited South Africa to assess political conditions.

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Mandela speaks to reporters April 14 after a meeting with senior EEC representative. At right is Irish Foreign Minister Garard Collins (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela in UK for concert

Declines invitation to meet Thatcher

LONDON, April 15. (Reuters): Nelson Mandela arrived in Britain by air from South Africa today to attend an internationally televised London concert marking his release from jail.

Tomorrow's Wembley stadium rock concert in his honour, to be attended by 70,000 supporters, is Mandela's main official engagement during a brief stay in Britain, his first visit since 1962.

The African National Congress (ANC) leader has rejected an open invitation to meet British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, demonstrating the ANC's anger at her decision to lift some anti-apartheid sanctions in response to his release from jail in February.

Before his departure yesterday, he acknowledged that the ANC, the main organisation fighting white minority rule in South Africa, had tortured dissident members.

Looking slightly tired on arrival in London, Mandela, 71, accompanied by his wife Winnie and aides, planned a busy weekend schedule culminating in tomorrow's pop concert.

He told reporters: "It is an honour and a pleasure for me and my delegation to be on British soil. We have always looked forward to this occasion when we can thank the British people for the support which they have given us in the course of our anti-apartheid struggle."

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THERE'S MORE TO LIFE WITH
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INTERNATIONAL

Aussies to mark Anzac spirit

SYDNEY, April 15. (Reuter): Later this month 51 frail old men will travel halfway around the world to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the most emotive battle in Australia's history, Gallipoli.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke will join the veterans on the barren peninsula in the Dardanelles where 8,000 Australian soldiers died in a vain attempt to open the way to Istanbul and knock German ally Turkey out of World War One.

"Anzac (Australia and New Zealand Army Corps) stood, and still stands, for reckless valour in a good cause, for enterprise, resourcefulness, fidelity, comradeship and endurance, which will never own defeat," states Australia's official war history.

For many ex-servicemen the dawn service and wreath-laying at the lone pine cemetery on Gallipoli, where many of the Australian dead lie, will revive old and often painful memories.

John McCleery, wounded at Gallipoli, will celebrate his 103rd birthday on Anzac day, April 25, a national holiday in Australia.

"We had been there for 10 days (when) my arm was shattered," McCleery said. "I collapsed and lost consciousness and woke up after four days on a hospital ship. I'm 102 now so my memory is going a bit and this will help bring things back."

All of the Australians were veterans. Some lied about their age to join up. Many had little training before being shipped off to Egypt en route to Gallipoli and a first taste of action. April 25 was the day they stormed ashore.

"The landing was terrible, it was hell on earth," says Les Hales. "For three days we did not know where we were. Gunfire, shrapnel, things on fire, on dear it was terrible."

The first wave of Australians landed more than one km (nearly a mile) north of where they should have at what is now called Anza Cove. Instead of open country they faced scrub-covered cliffs and withering Turkish gunfire.

British, French, Indian and other troops went ashore at other points on the peninsula.

Eventually the allied troops established a beachhead and a stalemate, punctuated by bouts of vicious fighting, ensued. Conditions were tough.

"We dug out holes in the trenches for a sleep but they were often full of water," Hales said in an interview. "After about six weeks the Turks did not shell so much but waited until late in the afternoon before starting."

"The latrines were just holes in the ground out in the open with a bar across to hold on to. Sometimes the Turks would catch four or five poor sods out in the open and they would be blown straight in."

George Abraham was at Gallipoli for three months, was evacuated to Cairo with pneumonia and then sent back when he recovered.



Young pioneers holding flags and flowers walk past a soldier guarding the monument to the People's Hero in Beijing's Tiananmen Square yesterday. The quiet ceremony marked the death anniversary of former party chief Hu Yaobang as security around the area remained tight to prevent protests similar to last year. (Reuter wirephoto)



Soldiers march through Beijing's Tiananmen Square on Saturday the day before the anniversary of last year's democracy protests which began with the death of former party secretary Hu Yaobang. Security around Beijing is heavy as the government prepares to prevent similar incidents. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cambodia peace overture: Visiting Thai Prime Minister Chaochit Choothavan has called for talks between the leader of the Vietnam-backed Cambodian government and ousted Prince Norodom Sihanouk to restore peace in the IndoChinese country, Kyodo news service reported.

Chaochit set forth the proposal in an interview with Kyodo Saturday, the major Japanese News Agency said.

"I think the agreements, if they agree, between (Cambodian Prime Minister) Hun Sen and Sihanouk might be the key to opening the gate to peace in Cambodia," the Thai leader was quoted as saying.

"The best way for a solution is step-by-step process," he added. (UPI)

Tonga coup story: An anti-communist Catholic and three Pentecostals say Tongan cops, some Europeans and supernatural forces are out to get King Taufa'au Tupou IV.

Police Minister 'Akou'ola deported the four from Tonga after they warned the king of a coup attempt they said was planned for April 6.

But they still maintain that senior Tongan police and soldiers with assistance from Europeans and supernatural forces are intent on dethroning the monarch of the Pacific's only kingdom. (Reuter)

Seoul rivals fight for control: Two rival factions continued to struggle for control of South Korea's governing party on Thursday, with one group calling for the removal of one of President Roh Taek-Woo's most trusted aides.

The faction, led by former opposition leader Kim Young-Sam, who joined the governing group in a party merger earlier this year, demanded the firing of Park Chul-U, a Roh confidant, as state minister.

Park, a distant relative of Roh, created an uproar early this week by publicly accusing Kim of maneuvering to take control of the governing Democratic Liberal Party at a national convention early next month. (AP)

Burma military not likely to quit: Burma's military has indicated it will not relinquish power soon after the election it has promised next month, Western diplomats said Friday.

A report in the state-controlled Working People's daily on Thursday quoted Burma's intelligence chief as saying a transfer of power would not take place until a new constitution is in place.

"The cabinet is to be formed just after the election... the cabinet is to be formed in consonance with the constitution," the Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said. (AP)

China warns ethnic rioters

BELING, April 15. (Reuter): China has warned against regional separation and ordered efforts to ensure stability along its remote northwest frontier — days after reports of ethnic unrest among Muslims in the sensitive Xinjiang region.

A senior Communist Party official in a televised speech from the regional capital Urumqi on Friday warned separatists not to threaten China's unity and stability.

The official did not refer directly to reported unrest near the ancient silk road city Kashgar last week when about 50 people, mostly Muslims of the ethnic Kirghiz minority, were said to have been killed in clashes with security forces.

Foreigners have been barred from the area and China's official media have made no mention of any unrest.

A regional deputy party leader, not identified in remarks monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, told local organisations to "safeguard stability and unity and ensure the stability of the border areas."

"Various negative factors" should be "resolutely eliminated," he said.

"Anyone who undermines (stability and unity) is lifting a rock only to drop it on his own feet," he said.

"We should strengthen the socialist legal system and bring into further play the dictatorial function of the state," he said.

Accounts vary over the cause of the violence, with some local people in Urumqi, about 1,000 km (600 miles) away, saying it was over the introduction of new identity cards and others maintaining the dispute centred on religious restrictions.

The party official described the economic and political situation in Xinjiang as "relatively good."

A vast region covering an area three times the size of France, Xinjiang is home to about 15 million people, about half of them Muslims who trace their ancestry to Turkic or Chinese origins.

Xinjiang has a long history of bloody conflicts between contending powers. Sporadic rebellions and protests against Chinese rule have erupted since the 1949 communist revolution.

Focus of the dying stages of the "great game" between contending powers Britain and Russia in the early years of this century, Xinjiang is China's strategic gateway to the West, bordering Mongolia, the Soviet Union, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.

In southern Okinawa, most parents and students in one high school refused to stand in front of the flag, forcing the schoolmaster to take it down from the auditorium stage.

Similar incidents were reported at many ceremonies across Okinawa, Japan's southernmost prefecture and the most vocal area opposing the symbols. Tens of thousands of islanders died at the hands of Japanese soldiers during World War Two.

According to the ministry official, however, "more than 70 or 80 percent of Japanese, in various polls, have accepted them as the national flag and anthem."

When the vexing subject hit the headlines in past years, radical students often turned to violent protests that would amount to desecration in other countries, burning the flag or throwing it into a ditch.

The ministry is familiar with controversy.

In the early 1980s, its approval against its neighbours earlier this century sparked a row with China

Mongolian Communist Party chief wants to work with opposition for reform

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, April 15. (AP): Communist Party chief Gombojav Ochirbat says he wants to work with the opposition and hold political dialogue, Ochirbat told a television interviewer Friday night at the conclusion of an extraordinary party congress.

The opposition group, inspired by the fall of communism elsewhere in the Soviet bloc, has emerged since December to demand a share of power. This herding nation has been ruled for nearly seven decades by the Communist Party, formally known as the Mongolian Peoples

China arrests lone protester

Police fill Tiananmen Square

BEIJING, April 15. (AP): A lone protester was arrested, but an overwhelming police presence discouraged other shows of dissent today on the anniversary of the beginning of last year's Student Democracy Movement.

Police took up strategic posts around Tiananmen Square, closely watching the usual Sunday crowd of Chinese from the countryside and tour groups from Taiwan and Hong Kong.

Sunday was the first anniversary of the death of former Communist Party chief Hu Yaobang, who was popular among students for his relatively liberal views.

Students took to the streets to mourn Hu and criticise the communist leadership that had ousted him from power in 1987 for failing to stop previous student demonstrations.



Police arrest a man who displayed a memorial wreath and armband in Beijing's Tiananmen Square yesterday on the death anniversary of former party chief Hu Yaobang and last year's democracy protests. The man was taken away by police. (Reuter wirephoto)

China dissident reappears

Call for curbs

PARIS, April 15. (UPI): Chai Ling, a leader of the Beijing pro-democracy movement that ended in bloodshed on Tiananmen Square last June, re-emerged from hiding in Paris yesterday and called on Western nations to impose tougher economic and political sanctions on the Chinese government.

In an interview with the French daily *Le Monde* and several foreign newspapers at an undisclosed Paris hotel, Chai gave a detailed account of her 10-month trek across China during which she was helped and encouraged by ordinary Chinese citizens who were aware that the government was trying to capture her.

"We received support and protection all along," Chai, who became 24 years-old today, said. "Those who helped us had their own problems, but they did everything to make things easier for us."

"I cannot tell you if they were officials or not," Chai, speaking through an interpreter, said of those who had helped her and her husband Feng Congde, 24, escape to the West.

The former psychology student's comments indicated that opponents of the hardline communist government are continuing to escape from China despite widespread repression and the dismantling late last year of an underground network that permitted dozens of dissidents to flee to Hong Kong and Macao.

Chai said that although the student movement was brutally crushed by army troops on the night of June 3-4 last year, her country has been transformed forever.

"Silence appears to weigh on China today, but the mentality of the people has changed," she said.

The presence of the two leading Chinese dissidents in the French capital is likely to lead to a further chill in relations between Paris and Beijing, which has formally protested the French government's decision to allow Chai and Feng to enter the country two weeks ago. The two dissidents figure prominently on Beijing's list of most wanted criminals.

In addition, Paris has steadfastly refused demands from the Beijing government that it outlaw a foundation that is financing a boat to beam radio broadcasts off the Chinese coast.

The ship, baptised "the goddess of democracy," sailed from the French port of La Rochelle on March 17 with several Chinese dissidents among its passengers and is scheduled to begin broadcasting later this month. The project's sponsors claim that the sophisticated electronic equipment on board will permit the more than one billion mainland Chinese to listen to its news and music programmes.



'Fierce Tiger'

Top: Taiwan Defence Minister Hau Pei-Tsai (centre, black suit, white shirt) and ranking members of the island's military inspect some 100 new locally produced M48H battle tanks on Saturday. The tanks dubbed "Fierce Tiger" were produced by Taiwan and the US defence contractor General Dynamics. Bottom: M48H battle tank is stationed at a military base. (Reuter wirephoto)

Understanding, co-operate with the opposition and hold political dialogue,"

Ochirbat told a television interviewer Friday night at the conclusion of an extraordinary party congress.

The opposition group, inspired by the fall of communism elsewhere in the Soviet bloc, has emerged since December to demand a share of power. This herding nation has been ruled for nearly seven decades by the Communist Party, formally known as the Mongolian Peoples

Revolutionary Party.

In a session that ended before dawn Friday, the extraordinary congress elected the new Central Committee, paring it down from 146 members to 91. It also rewrote the party constitution to make it more democratic.

The new Central Committee met immediately to confirm Ochirbat in his post. It also reappointed four other members of the party's top decision-making body, the politburo, and added a sixth

member, Sumya, who was culture minister until mid-week.

The Central Committee gave the politburo a new name, the Presidium, but did not change its basic function or powers.

The new party constitution, however, abolishes the formal requirement of absolute obedience to the centre, and allows local party bodies to raise objections to orders from the top. It also gives them a small degree of financial independence.

Euphoria of Havel's reforms has gone

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, April 15. (AP): The euphoria of President Vaclav Havel's fairy-tale journey from prison to the Prague castle has evaporated.

The writer and his entourage of former dissidents and underground artists introduced a fresh morality to politics at home and abroad and garnered ovations from Washington to Moscow.

But now, domestic worries are coming to the forefront after the revolution that ousted a repressive communist regime.

Czechs and Slovaks squabbled over the country's name. Government economists split over how quickly to rush for a free market. And the groups that powered the revolution began running rival campaigns for the June 8 election.

Havel, laid low by a hernia operation, admitted in a national radio address April 1 that "the time of elation and happiness stemming from the fact that everyone can say what they want has come to an end."

"The time has come when we will really have to do something with the freedom," he stressed.

As elsewhere in Eastern Europe, Czechoslovakia's transition from Stalinism to democracy is makeshift, bending the classic rules of parliamentary pluralism.

Thus, for instance, hasty all-party agreement was reached to remove dozens of communist deputies in Parliament, replacing them to ensure the non-communist majority needed to pass reforms before June.

Such solutions are being improvised across Eastern Europe to remove communism's legacy as painlessly as possible. Everywhere, they are hampered by ethnic strife and a sharp drop in worker output. Everywhere they are marked by a political shift to the right.

Better off

Czechoslovakia is better off than most. The strife between Czechs and Slovaks has not exploded in ethnic violence, the economy, while lagging behind countries like Czechoslovakia, was stripped 50 years ago, is not burdened by heavy debt.

But the hundreds of potential Western investors flocking to Prague are still waiting for new laws liberalising the flow of foreign capital. Unlike Hungary, Czechoslovakia has not even begun to establish capitalist economic tools like new banks or a fledgling stock market.

A senior economist with strong ties to the government says reform is hindered by a sharp division between Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus, who wants to go all out for capitalism, and others, including Havel, who fear the social consequences.

The coming campaign may colour those fears. Christian Democrats romped to success in free elections in East Germany and Hungary. A similar coalition in Czechoslovakia can count on strong support in heavily Roman Catholic Slovakia, and a possible boost from the April 21-22 visit of Pope John Paul II.

For now, Havel's Civic Forum and its Slovak partner public against violence top opinion polls, with about 20 percent. The communists — who still claim 1 million members in a country of 15.5 million — hold second place at around 11 percent.

That has shaken Civic Forum into a vigorous campaign against Communist Party retention of buildings and other assets seized during 41 years in power.

For the first time since December, tens of thousands massed in Wenceslas Square this week to back Civic Forum demands to the communists to return the property.

But the moral pull the opposition exerted to create the dignified togetherness of the revolution seems gone.

When Prague's new mayor Jaroslav Koran, a Havel appointee, summoned volunteers to clean up the city April 7, just 28 people came.

In part, this reflects how hard old habits die. In the past, the communists threatened job loss or other misfortune for failure to participate in their parades and other rituals.

INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 16, 1989

Bush, Thatcher agree on Nato summit

Washington seeks Kremlin clarification on ultimatum to Lithuania

LONDON, April 15. (Agencies): President George Bush and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher agreed at their Bermuda talks on the need to hold a Nato summit soon to form a response to changing events in Europe, British officials said yesterday.

The officials, travelling with the British leader on her return to London, said the summit was likely to be held within weeks but no date or venue had been set.

"The Americans are keen to have one sooner rather than later, in the next few months

rather than towards the end of the year," a Thatcher aide told reporters aboard her aircraft.

The summit, the fourth in little more than two years, will underline West Germany's membership of the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation during the process of German unification and tackle the issue of nuclear missiles deployed on West German soil.

The officials said that a Nato summit so that as an alliance we can take stock and reach a view where we go forward," the aide said.

"We are keen to have one sooner rather than later, in the next few months

said. He added that Bush and Thatcher agreed that such a meeting would be an "early demonstration" of Nato's determination to keep Germany as a full member after unification.

Officials said that for logistical reasons it would be impractical to expand a Nato foreign ministers' meeting scheduled for Turnberry in Scotland on June 8 into a full summit.

They added that Thatcher would send a report on her Friday talks with Bush to Soviet

leader Mikhail Gorbachev, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and French President Francois Mitterrand.

The aide said a Nato summit must tackle the kind of defence posture needed by the West following the opening of the Berlin Wall and the drive for democracy in Eastern Europe.

Referring to ground-based, short-range Lance nuclear missiles based in West Germany, he added: "That raises questions about the follow-on to Lance. But not about the purpose of

nuclear weapons in general. You are inevitably moving towards air-strike missiles."

This was a marked shift from Thatcher's previous insistence that Nato must stick to its commitment to modernise the Lance, despite objections from the West German government and public that their limited range meant they would land in East Germany.

Bush sought more information on Moscow's threat of economic retaliation against Lithuania as his administration weighed limited options for responding to the latest crisis.

During a rain-soaked game of golf, the Republican US President told reporters he wanted to withhold further comment on the situation until he received "a clarification" on Gorbachev's ultimatum to the independence-seeking Baltic republic.

Secretary of State James Baker, meanwhile, said the administration was taking a "wait and see" attitude.



Condemned

Senate majority leader George Mitchell, returning on Saturday from Moscow, condemned a Soviet threat to cut off some supplies to Lithuania if the republic does not rescind its declaration of independence from the Soviet Union.

Mitchell, Democrat of Maine, who led a delegation of senators to Berlin and Moscow, characterised a two-hour meeting Thursday with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev as "frank and wide-ranging" and said the group discussed economic reform in the Soviet Union, arms control and Lithuania.

Polish chief visits Katyn

MOSCOW, April 15. (AP): Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski visited the Katyn forest yesterday, a day after Moscow confessed to the war-time massacre of thousands of Polish Army officers, and said "truth is healing the wounds."

Jaruzelski, a general in Poland's army, was accompanied by an honour guard of the Polish Army at the memorial site in the forest near the western town of Smolensk as he paid tribute to the more than 4,000 officers killed in 1940 by Stalin's secret police, the Polish PAP news agency reported.

A "roll call of the dead" was intoned — a ceremony in which the names of victims are read, PAP said.

During one stanza of the roll call to the fallen, an officer said "they were not able to taste the joy of victory."

Then he gave the order to the honour guard: "Prepare for the appeal."

The soldiers answered in unison, "They died undefeated."

The general, wearing a green army overcoat, green scarf, a large wreath of red and white carnations and laid it in front of a memorial to the dead, according to footage broadcast on Soviet TV's evening newscast.

Polish Radio reported last night that the wording on the monument was changed three days ago, removing the words that blamed Nazi Germans.

The Soviets had long said the Nazis were responsible for the massacre, in which the Polish officers were shot in the back of the head and stacked on top of each other in mass graves.

Letter solves socks shortage

MOSCOW, April 15. (AP): Don't tell 19-year-old Andrei Umrikhin that Mikhail Gorbachev and the huge Communist Party apparat don't care about him.

But don't try to make him believe that the system really works, either.

After trying for a year and a half to buy some new socks in his small village in southern Russia, Umrikhin sent a letter directly to Gorbachev. And a little more than a month later the creaky Soviet retail system coughed up new socks not only for his family, but the whole village.

"To tell the truth, I still wonder whether it was all a coincidence, or whether the socks really were from the central committee," said Umrikhin, reached by telephone in his southern Russian village of Belyevo near Kursk, 450 kilometres (280 miles) south of Moscow.

Lithuania looks for Western trade ties

Gorby's blockade could cause huge layoffs

MOSCOW, April 15. (Agencies): Lithuanian officials began seeking ways to survive an economic blockade threatened by President Mikhail Gorbachev as a Sunday evening deadline approached for them to rescind their declaration of independence.

The officials acknowledged yesterday that the blockade could cause huge layoffs, but said they hoped sympathetic Soviet republics would at cutting off crucial supplies.

Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimira Pruskevicius said the republic

had stepped up efforts to establish economic ties with the West and was negotiating with West Germany and Switzerland to print Lithuanian money in case of a blockade, the official Soviet news agency Tass said yesterday.

The President of the breakaway republic, Vytautas Landsbergis, said Lithuania also was trying to contract directly with enterprises in various parts of the Soviet Union for its supplies, according to Edward Tukenis, a Parliament spokesman.



Scramble to buy new shoes

Romanians scramble to buy shoes in a queue in Bucharest April 14 as the country is still unable to provide consumer goods. It is an old custom to wear new clothes and shoes at Easter. (Reuter wirephoto)

Yeltsin bid gets a boost

MOSCOW, April 15. (Reuter): Populist politician Boris Yeltsin's bid for the presidency of the Soviet Union's key Russian federation has been boosted by the backing of the radical Democratic Russia bloc in the republic's parliament.

Tass news agency said 200 deputies, elected in March as part of the reformist movement, met yesterday and proposed the maverick Yeltsin as a candidate for the top post in the federation, the largest of the Soviet republics.

It would give the often volatile Yeltsin a highly visible platform from which to criticise the Communist Party and its leadership, including Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Formal nominations and voting are set for May 16, when the federation's newly-elected parliament holds its opening session.

The presidency is now held by Vitaly Yurovukov, a full member of the city's ruling politburo.

For other members of Democratic Russia, which backs a wide-ranging social, political and economic reform programme, were also nominated to stand for the federation's top post.

"This year the Romanian people are celebrating its first free Easter

Romanians enjoy first free Easter

Bulgarians shout slogans

BUCHAREST, April 15. (Reuter): Romanians took a holiday from politics today to flock to church and feast on traditional roast lamb on their first free Easter after four decades of atheistic communist rule.

State television broadcast religious services in Bucharest and other towns in a dramatic break with the past, when Stalinist ruler Nicolae Ceausescu was the only "God" to appear on the screen and religion was discouraged in favour of atheism.

Newspapers published religious messages on the eve of the festival and ran large front-page pictures of Jesus Christ.

The Easter celebration of Christ's resurrection has come to symbolise a national revival following Ceausescu's ouster in a bloody uprising. "He was executed on December 25, Christmas Day.

For the first time since communists took power 43 years ago, Romanians enjoyed a three-day public holiday ending on Monday.

"This year the Romanian people are celebrating its first free Easter

Cristescu first woman to run for Romanian presidency

BUCHAREST, April 15. (Reuter): Factory boss Olga Cristescu announced yesterday she would run for Romania's presidency next month — the first woman in the race — and pledged to restore the country's shattered economy within three years.

"What convinced me to run for president

"If I win the elections, I intend to select a very good team and set the economy back on a straight course in two or three years," said Cristescu, who admires British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and her economic policies.

An engineer in wood technology, she manages a factory with 2,000 workers making casings for radio and television sets. She said she had rescued it from the verge of bankruptcy and turned it into a prosperous business in six years.

"I think Romania could be brought back to a performing economy in much less time," she said.

Cristescu, fiftyish and married with a son aged 27, is the sixth candidate to enter the May 20 presidential election. She is the first independent candidate as well as the first woman.

The five others are established politicians, with interim President Ion Iliescu, an ex-communist, the front-runner so far.

Discover the mini break holiday that's nearby.



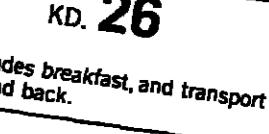
Country	Per person sharing a twin room
Bahrain	51 500
Sharjah	82
Dubai	86
Abu Dhabi	89
Muscat	104 500
Doha	69

Rates are inclusive of economy return air fare a stay of two nights and transport from & to hotel.

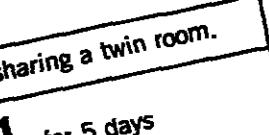
Per person sharing a twin room
Hilton
Holiday Inn
Marriott
Meridien



4 days tours	Per person sharing a twin room
Oberoi	KD. 70
Rate includes breakfast, half day sight and transport to hotel and back.	
Srinagar	KD. 26
Rate includes breakfast, and transport to hotel and back.	
Hyderabad	KD. 28
Rate includes transport to hotel and back.	



7 days tours:	Per person sharing a twin room
Bombay	KD. 75
Rate includes half day city tours and transport to hotel and back.	
Oberoi Towers	KD. 75
Rate includes half day city tours and transport to hotel and back.	



London	Per person sharing a twin room
Gloucester (Delux)	KD. 311 for 5 days
Rate includes accommodation, economy return air fare on BA, and continental breakfast.	



Larnaca:	Per person sharing a twin room
Nicosia: Churchill	KD. 11 500
Ledra	KD. 9
Limassol: Sheraton	KD. 13
Le Meridien	KD. 13
Larnaca: Palm Beach	KD. 12
Lordos Beach	KD. 8



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KUWAIT ... GULF

Kuwait to participate in Riyadh marine meet

Overland agreement with Poland finalised

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Transport Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Communication Saeed Al-Sudan was quoted as saying that Kuwait will participate in the GCC meeting scheduled to take place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on May 13 and 14 to study the GCC Unified Marine System Project.

In an interview with a local daily, the official disclosed that this project was suggested by Saudi Arabia and aims at unifying the marine systems of the member states. Saudi proposals were in general in compliance with the Kuwait Marine Trade Law enacted in 1980. He added that Kuwait will submit this law to the meeting

in the form of a working paper to be discussed in that meeting.

Speaking of his department's recent performances, the assistant undersecretary for transport affairs said that the draft agreement for overland transport between Kuwait and Poland was finalised recently in co-operation with the legal department at the ministry. This draft will be despatched to Polish authorities through Kuwait's ministry of Foreign Affairs for their scrutiny and the defining of a specific date for mutual debate of the proposed agreement.

Apart from the above, Sudan said that his department is currently preparing for

floating a tender for supply and installation of a number of navigation guide posts to be fixed in different places in Kuwaiti territorial waters. He elucidated that these posts will be distributed on to 26 sites in co-operation with a committee grouping members from the Ministries of Interior, Defence and Planning in addition to representatives from Kuwait-based United Arab Shipping Company (UASC) and Public Ports Authority (PPA).

Additionally, the ministry represented by its department floated a tender to maintain the current navigation guide posts which estimated at 63, the official was

quoted as saying.

He added that the department had invited relevant bidders to submit their offers for the supply of a specialised boat to carry out a hydrographic survey in order to enable the department to make the necessary survey in Kuwaiti territorial waters. Such a survey was previously conducted by specialised companies.

Headed that his department supervises the overland transport sector in addition to protecting water valid for navigation in co-operation with the authorities concerned in addition to the co-operation with the international and Arab organizations in the field of navigation.

Free-for-all at psychiatric hospital reported

THE Psychiatric Diseases Hospital was the scene of a free-for-all in which a number of police personnel sustained traumatic injuries and bruises.

A local daily said that a police squad came to the hospital to fetch a prisoner who was under medical treatment, but he resisted them and refused to leave the hospital.

The simple mutiny soon developed into a fist-fight in which the brother of the patient took part as he happened to be there, and the police had to call the Shuwaikh police station for back-up to bring the situation under control.

The suspects had in the meantime armed themselves with sticks and knives which they used efficiently utilising their past fighting training which they received during their military service.

It was not until they were threatened with guns did they decide to give themselves up.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sabah receives

KUWAIT, April 15, (Kuna): Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber received yesterday Maldives' Foreign Minister Jaimeel Fathullah, who is on a private visit to Kuwait.

During the meeting the two sides reviewed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

He also received interior minister Sheikh Salem Al-Sabah on the occasion of his return from London where he headed Kuwait's delegation to the international conference on fighting drugs that concluded there last week.

Czech envoy

KUWAIT, April 15, (Kuna): Chairman of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry Abdulaziz Hamad Al-Saeed received here yesterday Czechoslovak Ambassador to Kuwait Tomas Strakos.

During the meeting the two sides discussed means of promoting economic and trade relations between the two countries.

Sri Lankan pilgrims

COLOMBO, April 15, (Kuna): About 3,500 Sri Lankan Muslims are expected to make the Hajj pilgrimage this year, according to State Minister for Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs, A.H.M. Azwar.

This is possible this time the minister said "because of better facilities given by the government."

Hospital ship leaves

ABU DHABI, April 15, (Kuna): The Soviet hospital ship "Peter the First" has left the port of Jebel Ali, in the United Arab Emirates. It was fitted out as an ophthalmology clinic on the initiative of top Soviet eye surgeon Svyatoslav Fyodorov. The ship was in the port for six months, treating local and foreign patients.

Some 11,400 people from 46 countries of the world were checked by means of the latest laser equipment and computerised diagnostic installations. More than 4,000 operations to treat cataracts, implant artificial crystalline lenses and correct eyesight were carried out. Glaucoma was also treated.

Iranian concern

ATHENS, April 15, (UPI): Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei expressed concern about the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said.

Khamenei "expressed grave concern over influx of Soviet Jews to Palestine and said the US and the Soviet Union had made a secret deal over the issue," an IRNA dispatch monitored in Athens said.

Khamenei's remarks came as the Soviet News Agency Tass said there was a security alarm of a possible attack by Arab militants when an Aeroflot plane, carrying Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel via Cyprus, landed at Larnaca International Airport.

Panel submits plan for action

(Continued from Page 1)

Sheikh Salem said that the committee asked the Interior Ministry to study the current procedures of providing visas to Kuwait. He said that the ministry was told that it was business in commercial and industrial fields are the ones meant by the proposal calling to facilitate issuing visas. The ministry was also told to study the possibility of simplifying the procedures of issuing such visas particularly at Kuwait airport and Kuwait missions abroad.

About the recommendations aimed at boosting the economic productivity, Sheikh Salem said that 77 proposals were issued in this field and 15 of them have been implemented in the various economic sectors. In the real estate sector the committee implemented the proposal calling to demolish state expropriated real estates which are still rented by tenants. Sheikh Salem said that the Ministry of Finance said the majority of such buildings have been demolished and the remaining 34 buildings would be demolished soon. The committee also implemented the proposal calling to create the law needed to establish real estate investment of the funds. Sheikh Salem said that the law concerning the establishment of the funds has been recently approved by the Council of Ministers.

In the transportation field, Sheikh Salem said that the committee has told the ministry to implement the proposal banning private transportation vehicles from carrying goods or passengers to others. The ministry said that it was taking a tough line against violators. Sheikh Salem announced that the committee implemented the proposal allowing local hotels to issue visit visas for their guests. The committee also made consultations with owners of hotels to search for ways to reactivate the hotel industry.

The contracting sector

The recommendations mentioned in the report of the Joint Economic Report relating to the contracting sector reached 12 recommendations. The follow-up committee saw that 11 of these recommendations should be carried out within three months — First Group — and one recommendation that should be carried out within six months.

Two recommendations of the first group were carried out (18.2 per cent) of total recommendations. The first is recommendation No. 8 that asks the local authorities and establishments which grant loans and donations to foreign countries to urge these countries to give priority to the Kuwaiti consultative offices and contracting companies to carry out projects there. The Kuwait Finance Ministry took the required action in co-ordination with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

The second recommendation No. 11 that relates to reconsidering of decisions taken by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour about organisation of labour at private sector. The recommendation urges to be more flexible in transferring of residence permits from a sponsor to another to meet the requirements of work at the contracting sector in particular. The ministry advised that it held a meeting with officials of Chamber of Commerce and Kuwait Union of Contractors. The representatives of the chamber and the union praised the decision of the ministry describing it achieved the higher interest of the state. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour was asked to study its decision again after a sufficient period of application to see if it needs amendment or not.

From the courts

Embezzlement by computer trio gets each 3 years

THE Criminal Court sentenced a girl, her brother and his friend to three years rigorous imprisonment on charges of embezzling funds through the computer.

The court was told that the first defendant was working as assistant director of the computer section in a local bank. She had transferred credits of three customers to the account of the second defendant who was a friend of her brother.

The total amount involved was KD 9,256.500 and was illegally transferred by computerising the account number of the second defendant on the computer disk instead of the numbers of the three customers.

Official sources said that the second defendant had opened the account only a month previously and had given the account number to the third defendant.

The amount of KD 9,070 was withdrawn the very next day. However, the forgery was detected and reported to security police who successfully apprehended all three suspects.

The first defendant admitted to the charge, but added that she had repaid the money to the bank. Her defence attorney claimed that she did not intend to embezzle the funds, but was done only to prove to her brother that she could transfer any amount from account of a customer to another account.

The court in its deliberations disagreed and convicted all three on counts of computer fraud with the intent to embezzle funds.

The court in sentencing the three to three rigorous imprisonment, also ordered them to pay a fine of KD 9,256.500 and ordered that the first and third defendant be deported on completion of sentence.

■ A man was sentenced by Kuwait's Criminal Court to 15 years in jail for abducting and raping a housemaid.

The court was told that the victim had gone to a commercial store to purchase some consumer goods for her employer and the defendant stopped her and demanded she produce her identity card. She said that it was at home and the accused who was dressed in a

Commenting on the recommendation No. 1 about giving priority to the Kuwaiti construction companies in carrying out local projects except the special projects, the follow-up committee said that Public Works Ministry is the concerned ministry to carry out in co-ordination with Housing Ministry, MEF and Central Tenders Committee within three months. Some of these authorities advised that they abide by these recommendations. The follow-up committee asked these ministries to determine which are the special projects.

Concerning recommendation No. 2 for assuming strict punishments against selling tenders to other contractors and to prevent the Kuwaiti contractors or their establishment from having subcontracts with foreign companies if there are local companies that can carry out same work. The relevant authorities notified the follow-up committee that contracts with contractors include now penalties in case of selling tenders or violating the contract terms. The committee now that draft law of tenders (new one) should include the required punishments.

Commenting on recommendation No. 6 for evaluation and classification of local contractors according to scientific bases, the Public Works Ministry advised that this system being reviewed by the Council of Ministers.

The industrial sector

The recommendations of the Joint Economic Committee concerning the industrial sector reached 15 recommendations and seven of them are being carried out within three months and 4 recommendations within 6 months while other four recommendations will be carried out within one year or more. The relevant authorities carried out a recommendation urging the local authorities that grants foreign loans and donations to ask countries that receive such loans and donations to give priority to Kuwaiti products. The finance ministry took the required action in this respect in co-ordination with Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. The follow up committee stressed on relevant authorities to buy the local products. It also stressed on the importance to manufacture products that meet the future needs of Kuwait.

Concerning the recommendation to oblige local and foreign companies that carry out government projects to use the national products in their work, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is now abiding by the recommendation. The ministry also set up a work team to study bases of establishment of industries in Kuwait.

The commercial sector

The Joint Economic Committee included 13 recommendations to activate the commercial sector in its report. The follow up committee decided to carry out four of them within their months, eight within 6 months and one within one year.

Concerning the recommendation to urge the co-operative societies to be more flexible in dealing with commercial sector and to have more strict control by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour on these co-operatives, the Ministry of Social Affairs said that it held a meeting with Union of Co-operative Societies to discuss this recommendation. They agreed upon procedures that should be taken. The co-operatives received instructions to abide by rules that control relation between them and the importers. The ministry advised that it is now putting a new draft law on co-operatives which will have more control on the local co-operatives.

Concerning the organization of commercial licences, the Ministry of Commerce advised that it put a new classification for commercial activities. The ministry also completed a draft law on the commercial agencies and submitted it to the Council of Ministers.

Eid Al-Fitr on April 26: Ojairi

WELL-KNOWN

Kuwait astronomer Dr. Saleh Al-Ojairi said yesterday that Eid Al-Fitr, the festival marking the end of the current fasting month of Ramadan, will fall this year on Thursday, April 26 according to astronomical calculations. But Ojairi did not rule out the possibility that Eid may fall one day earlier on Wednesday in some Arab and Islamic countries. If the Eid falls on Thursday, it would mean that Ramadan this year will be 30 days in most Arab and Islamic countries. Most of Arab countries started the fasting of the holy month on Tuesday, March 27 while fasting in some other countries began one day late.

Ojairi predicted very hot weather with dust storms during the coming 30 days. He said that local winds known as "Sarayat" have started Saturday and these winds will greatly influence the weather till May 15. He also predicted a high rise in temperature during the month of June and the first half of July.

Expatriates may be banned from living in model areas

A LOCAL daily reported that the Council of Ministers will shortly issue a law banning Kuwaitis from renting their houses in the so-called "model areas" to expatriate bachelors and families as well. Quoting well informed sources, the paper stressed that the law is expected to be issued immediately after Eid Al-Fitr holidays or may be advanced before the Eid holidays. The sources said that the Council of Ministers have been giving great attention to this issue.

The sources said that the law will be in line with the government plans to organise renting of houses in the model areas, mostly inhabited by Kuwaitis. The Kuwait Municipality will issue certain regulations defining the meaning of a model area. The law will comprise of 7 articles and will specify the types of houses in the model areas that can't be rented to non-Kuwaitis. The sources however stressed that the law will include a number of exceptions.

It will allow Kuwaitis to rent such houses to Gulf families and diplomats in Kuwait. It will also allow them to rent houses in model areas to senior expatriate employees like advisors, doctors, experts and others.

Punitive action against abuse of power: Khamees

Securitymen warned

THE director of the Control and Inspection Department at the Interior Ministry Col. Abdullah Al-Khamees has said that a number of punitive administrative measures have been enforced against securitymen charged with ill-treatment of citizens and residents.

He told a local daily that penalties are meted out to securitymen, who use their official position to give people raw deals, communicate with the size and type of the case in question.

He added that these penalties start with an oral warning, then written notice, and pay-deductions for recurrent violation of their official authority and after that the penalties take a stricter turn involving deprivation of promotion, detention from one week to a month, suspension and finally sacking.

He said that the department has received quite a few complaints with made-up stories intended to frame the security officers for personal grudges and

reasons, and the people concerned were referred to competent authorities for punitive measures.

He said that in one case a traffic policeman had a week's pay deducted from his salary, as he had unjustly detained one person and withdrew his driving license.

Khamees stressed the importance of boxes mounted in the governorates' corridors to collect people's complaints, which are dealt with utmost secrecy.

He said some complaints go straight to the minister or under-secretary containing all needed information and duty signed by the lodgers, stressing that the ministry's doors are always open to receive people with complaints against police personnel abusing their offices and smearing their official records.

Insurance bill under review: Roumi

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Commercial Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry Rasheed Al-Roumi was quoted as saying that the draft bill for organising the country's insurance sector is currently under review by Fatwa (Legal Opinion) and Legislation Department. The review concentrates mainly on the legal formula of the text.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the new law was aimed at protecting insured people by realising insurance fair pricing and to make sure about the financial standing of the insurance companies and its capability to meet its obligations towards the holders of insurance policies.

He added that the law aims at protecting national insurance companies by organising the re-insurance operations and setting up the necessary rules governing the licences of new insurance units into the local market.

With regard to the cars insurance, this aspect of insurance will witness no changes at the moment, but it would be possible to study the regulations of compulsory insurance with the national companies to put a limit from the persistent complaints of these companies in respect to the increase of its losses as a result of the cars compulsory insurance.

Control

Speaking of the ministry's control on the insurance companies, the official said that the ministry was practising its control on the insurance companies and the insurance commission offices need to confirm that all of these companies and offices abide by the relevant law regulations. He added that the ministry reserves the right to review the financial obligations of the insurance companies and to practice regular inspection of these companies as well as the insurance offices in addition to following up of citizens' complaints.

Speaking of the proposed law attitude towards the foreign insurance companies in the country, the official clarified that the decree law No. 5/1989 included some provisions regarding the Insurance Agents Law No. 24/1961, adding that the new amendments stipulated that the branches of the foreign insurance companies in Kuwait are required to provide the Ministry of Commerce and Industry with the necessary financial details and profit and losses accounts. He added that the new law allowed the minister of commerce and industry to cancel the branch of the foreign insurance company in Kuwait in case of failure in realising the necessary premiums which should be equivalent to four times its respective deposit concerning. The minister reserves the right also to cancel this branch if it has failed to realise annual profit of at least 7 percent of the total annual premiums.

He added apart from the above, the law had set up the necessary technical and organisational criterion for the activities of the foreign insurance companies in Kuwait.

Iranian newspaper attacks British court over 'moving corpse' Rushdie

NICOSIA, April 15, (Reuters): An Iranian newspaper yesterday attacked a British court's refusal to allow author Salman Rushdie to be tried for blasphemy and described him as "no more than a moving corpse."

The hardline English-lan-

guage Kayhan International said of "The Satanic Verses" author that "his fate is but certain death — a fact that the British rulers have to accept sooner or later."

Last Monday, high court judges refused to allow British Muslims to prosecute Rushdie,

saying Christianity was the only religion protected by that country's blasphemy laws.

The British author, a non-practicing Muslim born in India, has lived in hiding since February 1989 when Iran's late spiritual leaders Ayatollah Khomeini ordered Muslims to kill him for alleged blasphemy against Islam in "The Satanic Verses."

Kayhan International said the court ruling showed the true nature of democracy and

freedom claimed by British authorities.

An editorial in another hardline newspaper Jomhuri Islami said that neglect of the "Muslims" complaint showed the court was a mere mouthpiece of the British government.

"British statesmen should realise that there will be no flexibility from the Islamic Republic for improvement of Tehran-London ties unless they meet demands of Muslims," the Iranian news agency Irna reported.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

ONE great use of words is to hide our thoughts — Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).

Anti-base sentiment rises

Germans want Yankees out

BITBURG, West Germany, (AP): As some of the 250,000 American troops stationed in West Germany look homeward, many Germans are becoming increasingly eager to see them leave.

US President George Bush's proposal to withdraw 57,000 Americans soldiers has sparked local lobbying over which areas will be affected first.

Once scorned as "anti-Americanism," the wish to see the massive US military presence cut back has picked up support from two state governments.

The conservative governor of Hesse State has become the latest official to urge a major reduction in his region, echoing sentiments expressed earlier in Rhineland-Palatinate.

The Social Democratic mayor of Frankfurt has his eye on a huge military shopping area, hoping to turn it into a city housing development.

Among the sites that West German state officials would like closed is the US Air Force base in Bitburg, where US President Ronald Reagan made a bitterly criticised visit to a German war cemetery in 1985.

Perceive

Many West Germans perceive that the Soviet menace to the East is dissipating, and a majority think US troops should leave, a poll indicates.

A total US troop withdrawal from West Germany would be welcome, said 56.5 per cent of West Germans surveyed in March by German and US polling organizations, while 38.6 per cent said they opposed such a move.

"Before, people were reprimanded for saying such a thing out loud," says Bitburg Deputy Mayor Hans Jacobs. "They were labelled as anti-American."

The city official says "now the time has come" to map out the future with a far smaller number of troops, although he cautions that an immediate pullout would mean economic collapse for the rural town.

Jacobs says he looks forward to a possible civilian use for the air base and less noise from fighter jets screeching overhead. More industry would make up for jobs lost by West German civilians.

"Tourism would also pick up if there weren't so many troops around," he said. The 13,500 Americans outnumber West German residents, Jacobs said.

Many West Germans have long chafed at the presence of such a massive US troop presence as an obstacle to full national sovereignty.

Other reasons for the eagerness to see part of the US military pull out are much simpler, including the need to find housing for hundreds of thousands of immigrants from Eastern Europe.

Hesse State Governor Walter Wallmann, host to nearly 59,000 troops, has made an outright appeal for the removal of military personnel from Frankfurt and nearby Erbachen.

Wallmann, in a letter to Chancellor Helmut Kohl on April 2, said the American facilities are needed to keep up with "European competition."

Air base

The Hesse governor told Kohl, a fellow Christian Democrat, that he would even like to have the sprawling Rhein-Main US air base outside Frankfurt turned over to the West Germans.

Wallmann's bluntly worded letter would have been unthinkable just months ago from a member of the West German political party with the closest ties to Washington.

Frankfurt is jockeying to become the home of the central bank of an economically integrated Europe, thus attracting even more business to the glittering financial centre.

City mayor Volker Hauff would like the Americans to give up a huge shopping area to turn the site into a city housing development.

"We don't want to drive the Americans out of Frankfurt," adds Hauff's spokesman, Jan Von Trott. "The only thing we are saying is that if there are troop reductions in Europe, they must also occur in Frankfurt."

Nato Commander John R. Galvin has been making TV announcements for the US military to try to calm concerns about the future of American forces in West Germany, according to a military spokesman.

Army Maj David Compton of the US military headquarters in Stuttgart said Galvin still has not made any formal troop cutback plan.

Most West Germans agree American troops will be stationed in their country for the foreseeable future, and the cutbacks could take a while to complete. Many West Germans also warn that the financial impact in smaller areas especially could be severe.

Carl-Ludwig Wagner, the CDU governor of the western state of Rhineland-Palatinate where Bitburg is located, has been sending an increasingly blunt message.

Closure

Wagner has presented a list of 12 military US bases and facilities for possible closure, and demanded full information as Bonn and Washington work out the details.

Josef Hecken, a top official with the state's Interior Ministry, says the bases should be cleared out "as soon as possible" once agreements are reached at troop reduction talks in Vienna.

Hecken said the state government is not demanding the removal of all troops, acknowledging that the military presence is an "important economic factor."

Estimates of the amount of money the American military pours into the Rhineland-Palatinate economy range from 4.5 billion to 7 billion marks a year — or \$2.6 billion to \$4.1 billion annually. That is an important factor for a region that once was one of the poorest in Germany.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1804 — War between British East India Company and Holkar of Indore begins in India.

1856 — Declaration of Paris abolishes privateering, defines nature of contraband and blockade, and recognizes principle of "free ships, free goods."

1862 — France's Napoleon III declares war against Juarez, Mexican leader.

1906 — Pacific cable between United States and China is completed.

1917 — Nikolai Lenin returns to Russia after years of exile.

1922 — Treaty of Rapallo between Germany and Soviet Union recognizes Soviet Union as a "great power" and leads to resumption of diplomatic and trade relations.

1942 — India's Congress rejects terms of self-government offered by Britain.

1945 — US troops enter Nuremberg, Germany, in World War II.

1947 — Fires and explosions wreck Texas City, Texas, as French freighter loaded with nitrate blows up, leaving eventual death toll of more than 500.

1964 — Nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo is placed under restriction in Southern Rhodesia.

1970 — Alpine avalanche plunges down on children's sanatorium at Sallanches, France, killing 72 people.

1972 — US Apollo 16 astronauts are launched toward moon from Cape Kennedy, Florida.

1975 — Cambodian government in Phnom Penh asks for truce and offers to yield to communist forces sweeping into city.

1988 — Israeli commando unit kills Abu Jihad, Palestine Liberation Organisation military commander in Tunis.

1989 — Three bomb blasts on fifth day of government requested ceasefire kills one man and injures 20 people in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Gorby makes radical change

Policy shift from Central Committee

MOSCOW, (AP): Mikhail S. Gorbachev has shifted the burden of setting policy from the Communist Party to new government bodies. But his closest adviser has left no doubt that it is still Gorbachev who has the final say.

A month after Gorbachev created a presidential structure with himself as head, decisions about the new economy and Lithuania are made under the new arrangement.

On Saturday, Gorbachev says he will meet with his two new presidential advisory groups, the Presidential Council and the Council of the Federation, to agree on a new set of economic reforms. They are expected to be the most radical the Soviet leader has attempted.

Rejected

After Lithuania last week rejected Gorbachev's call to renounce the declaration of independence in order to open up talks with Moscow, the Kremlin's reaction came from the Presidential Council.

The Soviet news agency Tass said Monday that the Presidential Council "concluded that additional economic, political and other measures should be taken to protect the Soviet constitution and the interests of citizens living in the republic and the Soviet Union as a whole."

Gorbachev also has consulted with the Council of the Federation, made up of representatives of each of the Soviet republics, on the Lithuania dispute.

Meanwhile, the Communist Party's Politburo and Central Committee have been silent. Those bodies for decades have been at the heart of Soviet decision-making, leaving the government only to implement its directives. But Gorbachev has pledged to reduce their role to that of making broad policy decisions.

Gorbachev remains the Communist Party chief, as he has been for the past five years, but his election to the post of president underlined his pledge to limit the party's role. And the shift in decision-making since then on its biggest policy headaches, Lithuania and the economy, appears to confirm that such a change is occurring.

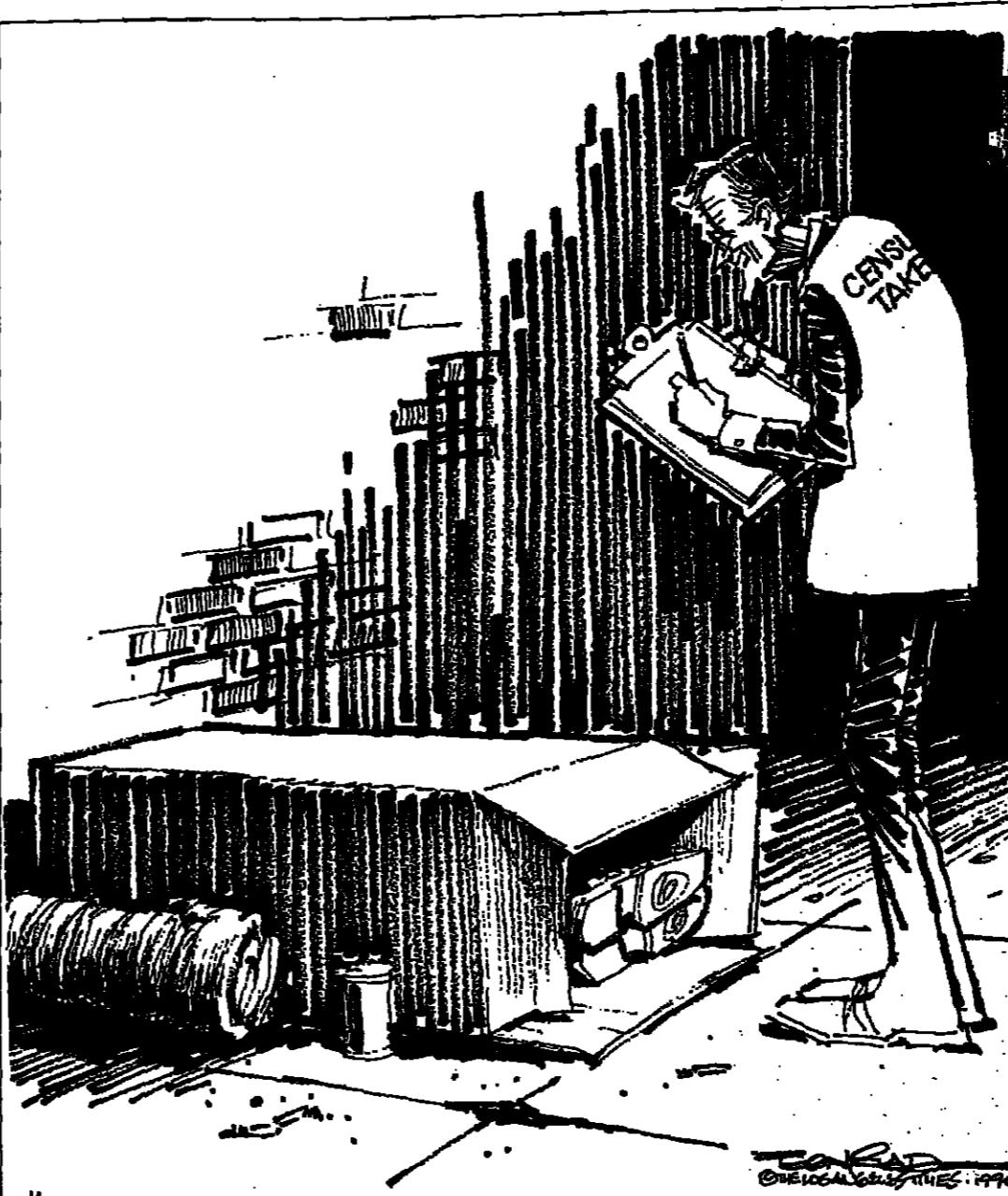
Gorbachev's advisor on economic reform, Deputy Premier Leonid Abalkin, bluntly told reporters that the Politburo no longer would be forming economic policy.

Politburo

The Politburo will not be making any decisions from now on, and it is already not making the decisions," he said. "Decisions can be made by the president, the Parliament and the Congress of People's Deputies. Those are the decision-making entities now."

The Presidential Council is a hand-picked advisory committee including such top Gorbachev advisers as Politburo member Alexander N. Yakovlev and Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze. For balance, it includes conservatives like writer Valentin Rasputin of Irkutsk and workers' representative Veniamin Yarin of Nizhniy-Tagsk.

Yakovlev, in an interview with Tass, last week, emphasised that Gorbachev may turn to the Presidential Council for advice, but that it is up to the president to decide.



"HOW LONG HAVE YOU LIVED AT THIS ADDRESS? DID YOU VOTE IN THE LAST ELECTION? DO YOU READ LIPS?"

make recommendations, raise questions of its own initiative."

Its formation gives Gorbachev the power to bypass more conservative Politburo members like Yegor K. Gaidar and take policy questions to a group most closely in tune with his own views.

Council

"In any instance, the right to choose, the right of decision belongs to the president," he added. "The council can and must analyse, work out proposals,

make recommendations, raise questions of its own initiative."

Its formation gives Gorbachev the power to bypass more conservative Politburo members like Yegor K. Gaidar and take policy questions to a group most closely in tune with his own views.

Despite five years of reforms, the party's Central Committee still is riddled with party bureaucrats who are suspicious of his reforms. And the Central Committee must make any changes in the Politburo.

De Maiziere might yield to Kohl

EAST BERLIN, (Reuter): East Germany's new Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has the looks of a professor who would rather hide behind his books, but unity with West Germany will keep him in a relentless spotlight.

De Maiziere's retiring air and faint voice mask the political skills of an ex-dissident lawyer who turned his Christian Democratic Party (CDU) from a Stalinist puppet into East Germany's biggest democratic force within five months.

He was amazed at his party's victory in East Germany's first free election on March 18 but begged off a commitment to shoulder the high pressure premier's job until early April, when full coalition plans began.

A grave, bespectacled littleman with a neat grey beard, De Maiziere projects an air of thinking "there must be some mistake," whenever the media swarms about him clamouring information and an apt quote — now an everyday occurrence.

These encounters are aggravated by De Maiziere's speech defect, which softens and slurs his words so much even native Germans have trouble understanding him.

In any case, the 50-year-old father of three daughters, elected prime minister by Parliament on Thursday, may be able to return to the cosier confines of law offices and lay churchhood in the not too far distant future.

De Maiziere will almost certainly be East Germany's last — as well as its first — non-communist premier.

He will likely yield to the West German Christian Democratic (CDU) leader who galvanised his election campaign and looks best placed to be the first leader of a united Germany — Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

De Maiziere has cobbled together a grand coalition government, including the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD), despite allegations that he and

East Germany's first freely elected government wants East and West German armies reduced in size. The NVA, moreover, started falling apart after last year's revolution.

Eppelmann's predecessor, disarray-minded Admiral Theodor Hoffmann, said he welcomed a civilian successor and praised the pastor as a "clever, co-operative and active man."

In a sign of the changing times, Hoffmann was unconcerned that Eppelmann served eight months in prison in the 1960s as a conscientious objector to military service.

Like other members of East Germany's new government approved by Parliament on Thursday, he may not be long in the job.

Asked about abolishing his own post, he referred to the fast pace of unity and joked, "I may hardly have time to do that."

For the veteran Peacemaker, it must seek like a dream come true to be in a position to slash the strength of the East German Army, the National Volksarmee (NVA).

He led an appeal for "peace without weapons" in the early 1980s and was briefly jailed for opposing the deployment of nuclear missiles in East Germany.

Eppelmann is married with four children.

Letters to the editor

Vague explanation

SIR: This has a reference to "Approb" executive board letter of April 11 under the heading "Positive contribution".

The whole explanation of the "AEB" is rather vague and PAC's Executive Committee has no comment but feel it would be a merely wastage of time to analyse it.

What we take a serious view in the first paragraph of "Positive contribution" — "AEB" enumerated that "Approb" has nothing to do with the PAC and does not provide moral or material support to PAC.

PAC is purely a Pakistani cultural organisation and has never asked for any moral or material support from the "Approb" so-called organisation of people of high rank and also PAC has nothing to do with Approb.

What we have demanded from "Approb" to take action against the culprit, whom we consider a black sheep of the society who used PAC's name for a programme and collected funds, for which he is scared to face PAC's officials.

M. Musa,
Kuwait

SIR: This is in connection with letters of Haider N. Shah and Kamal Azher that appeared in the Arab Times of

to celebrate country's national day and brings all the way from Pakistan a distinguished and honourable guest like Javed Iqbal to grace the event and incur all expenses for holding the seminar in one of the best and expensive hotels in Kuwait deserve no appreciations and have rendered no service to the country but on the other hand an organisation like PAC whose main activities seems to be limited to holding "Ghazal Nights" with perhaps paid invitations is serving Pakistan and Islam.

I am not against PAC or any other organisation rather I would request all Pakistani organisations in Kuwait to be positive and objective and give the devil its due. If they really mean to serve the country then instead of throwing mud at each other and make a laughing stock of themselves, they should sit together, discuss, convince, unite and combine their potentials to serve the best interest of the country.

A Pakistani

(Name & address supplied)

Editor's note: Correspondence on Approb is closed.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

British Reds consider extinction

LONDON: (Reuter): Britain's communists, latecomers to perestroika, are about to embark on their own mini-revolution which could spell the end of the party after 70 years.

Reflecting on a year which saw communist governments collapse under the weight of popular protest, leaders of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) say they too often turned a blind eye to corrupt rule in Eastern Europe.

Chris Myant, the party's new international secretary, welcomed the events of 1989 which he said sounded the death knell for communism around the world.

"There is no longer an international communist movement and this is good."

Flaunt

"Some who flaunt the label 'communist' are among the perpetrators and supporters of some of the worst abuses against human rights and the environment," he said in a hard-hitting report to CPGB leaders.

British communists are preparing for what is being billed as a "make-or-break" congress early next year in which the party could transform itself beyond recognition or simply disappear.

"We cannot call for democracy, openness and truth on the part of others without accepting that we were wrong to welcome Stalinism," Myant said.

Nina Temple, the party's new general secretary, said in an interview that British communists should have condemned more strongly what was happening in Eastern Europe.

She said communists in the 1930s and '40s would not believe Stalin had begun a reign of terror, ordering massive purges.

Jordan, PLO officials discuss confederation

Idea accepted to both sides: Mahmoud Abbas

AMMAN, April 15. (Agencies): A senior Palestine Liberation Organisation figure said yesterday that officials are discussing a proposed Jordanian-Palestinian confederation that could follow an Arab-Israeli peace settlement.

PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas made the statement after a two-hour meeting with Jordanian Prime Minister Mubarik Badran to prepare for a visit by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. "The confederation is an issue which was proposed some time ago and it is accepted to both sides," Abbas said.

"And I believe it would not probably be implemented now but it is in our minds, it exists, it is desired and it is the ideal solution for both of us."

He said the confederation idea would be a main topic of discussions between King Hussein and Arafat, who is scheduled to visit Amman later this week.

Both PLO and Jordan agreed in February 1985 to work for a peace with Israel that would lead to a Palestinian state confederated with Jordan.

Such a status was intended to help overcome US resistance to a purely independent Palestinian state, and backers argued that confederation would benefit both countries economically and socially.

Despite the collapse of the 1985 plan a year later, the PLO has continued to advocate confederation. Jordanian officials lately have said it should be discussed after a Palestinian state is established.

The PLO declared its own Palestinian state in November 1988, three months after King Hussein renounced sovereignty over the Israeli-occupied West Bank in favour of the PLO.

Although it did not define the borders of its state, the PLO said it would roughly encompass the West Bank and the occupied Gaza Strip with Jerusalem as its capital.

Abbas, who arrived in Amman on Thursday, said Arafat also would discuss the perceived threat of massive Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel and the occupied territories due to relaxed Soviet immigration rules.

He said that the PLO was negotiating with the Soviet Union, the United States and Europe "to half the influx of Soviet Jews to the occupied territories."

"They (the United States) say this immigration is part of the human rights of Jews, and we are not against that, but we see it as a violation of the human rights of Palestinians," Abbas said.

The influx has alarmed Arab countries, especially Jordan, who fear that Israel might expel Palestinians to neighbouring Arab countries to accommodate the new arrivals.

Abbas welcomed a statement Friday by US Senate minority leader Robert Dole that he would try to reverse a recent senate resolution recognising occupied Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

"I believe that some parties in America are backing up on their previous position after they discovered that they were not only mistaken but also that such a decision is none of their business," he said.

The senate resolution, co-sponsored by 84 senators, is not binding on the US administration, which considers east Jerusalem to be occupied territory.

Abbas also urged PLO leaders to further strengthen contacts with US officials, which have been criticised by some Palestinians unhappy with a lack of progress toward peace.

"Our meetings with American officials are not a waste of time, but are very beneficial since these officials get to know our views instead of only listening to one side," he said.

Moderate Palestinian leaders urged five US senators yesterday to mount pressure on Israel to talk with the PLO and to take steps toward peace.

Likud leaders have said they will not join a Peres government.

Moscow boosts aid to Kabul

ISLAMABAD, April 15. (Agencies): The Soviet Union has increased deliveries of weapons, food and fuel to Afghanistan and raised the number of its military advisers in the country, a senior Western diplomat said yesterday.

He estimated that total Soviet supplies were now worth \$350 to \$400 million a month, compared with around \$300 million a month last year. Arms and ammunition accounted for about 80 per cent of the total.

He also said the number of Soviet advisers had jumped from about 300 last September to around 500, with most of the newcomers arriving since Afghan President Najibullah foiled a coup in December.

Some advisers man missile batteries equipped with Soviet Scud-B missiles to combat anti-government guerrillas. Others are stationed in Kabul or with fighting units. Afghan experts say.

Since the last Soviet combat troops left Afghanistan in February last year, Najibullah's government has been sustained by a massive Soviet airift.

Each day up to 50 big Soviet transport planes spiral down into Kabul, firing flare decoys to ward off any missiles fired by the mujahideen guerrillas, to deliver arms and food.

More supplies are sent by road convoy down the Safang Highway from the Soviet border but the trucks are often attacked by the guerrillas as they cross the Hindu Kush mountains.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan President Najibullah says his regime in Kabul has emerged stronger after abortive March 6 coup attempt by his former defence minister General Shah Nawaz Tanai.

In fact, the combat morale and spirit of the armed forces had further elevated after the coup attempt, he said in an exclusive interview to the correspondent of Islamabad English daily 'Muslim' recently in Kabul, and carried by the newspaper on Saturday.

Cairo approves new parties

Cairo orders

Europeans deported

CAIRO, April 15. (AP): The supreme administrative court yesterday approved the formation of three new political parties, bringing to eight the number of opposition parties in Egypt.

Judge Anwar Mahfouz rejected the application request of a fourth political party.

The court's rulings ended a four-year-old legal battle. The supreme administrative court's ruling is final.

The three newly approved parties are named "Young Egypt," "The Greens" and "The Unionist Democratic Party." Their programmes were not immediately known but Judge Mahfouz said that their policies were "compatible with the principles of the state."

The rejected party, "The Nasserite Party" which follows the socialist policies of late President Gamal Abdel Nasser, was turned down because it was "retrogressive," Judge Mahfouz said.

President Hosni Mubarak's National Democratic Party has a ruling majority in Parliament. The five other opposition parties in Egypt are the rightist Wafid Party, the Muslim Fundamentalist Umma Party, the Socialist Labour Party, The rightist Liberal Party and the pro-Moscow National Unionist Progressive Party.

Green party leaders say they will concentrate on boosting public awareness of ecological issues rather than seeking political power. They



Commemorating resurrection

The pool of bells heralded the "miracle of the holy fire" Saturday and hundreds of Christian pilgrims rushed to light handfuls of candles in a 1,000-year-old ceremony commemorating Jesus' resurrection.

Old women quickly grabbed at the flames from their candles before placing their open palms on their foreheads, crossing themselves and murmuring prayers. Candlewax dripped over their hands and clothing as they held a cluster of 33 candles — one for each year they believe Jesus lived.

More than 1,500 Christian pilgrims and curious visitors packed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and watched from the courtyard and nearby roofs as people ran with burning candles to light other tapers.

Political overtones accompanied the religious ceremony — the most spectacular of Jerusalem's Easter celebrations. Before the ceremony, young men rushing into the church raised their candles along with "V" for victory signs.

They sang in Arabic, "We are the Christians who hold candles in our hands, National, national, national unity — Falah, Popular Front and communists," referring to three factions of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Shortly after the ceremony ended, nearly a dozen Palestinian Christians held a vigil outside a disputed house in the Old City's Christian quarter and around the corner from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

In the picture, a Christian pilgrim holding a cross and lit candles looks up as she passes the Station of the Cross while retracing Jesus Christ's route of crucifixion on the Via Dolorosa on Good Friday, March 13. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cairo approves new parties

Cairo orders

Europeans deported

CAIRO, April 15. (AP): Police yesterday ordered the release and deportation of three Europeans who were arrested three days ago on suspicion of fomenting trouble between Muslims and Christians in Cairo, daily Al Ahram newspaper said.

The court's rulings ended a four-year-old legal battle. The supreme administrative court's ruling is final.

The three newly approved parties are named "Young Egypt," "The Greens" and "The Unionist Democratic Party." Their programmes were not immediately known but Judge Mahfouz said that their policies were "compatible with the principles of the state."

He denied press reports that documents were confiscated. One report said German-language leaflets "misinterpreted" verses of the Holy Quran.

Yassin said proselytizing is not an offense under Egyptian law "unless it is coupled with action to stir up trouble between religious communities." If proven in court, that is punishable by up to five years' imprisonment, he said.

In practice, proselytizing by Christians is frowned upon.

Yassin identified the three Europeans as Stefan Walter and Roland Grynn of Switzerland and Michael Joseph of West Germany, all in their late 20s. He did not give their hometowns.

Bruno Schmid, consular officer at the Swiss embassy, said he planned to visit the Swiss embassy on Saturday. He said they were arrested on Wednesday.

West German Consul Dorothea Bringmann refused all comment.

Want Egyptians to plant trees in their sandy land instead of cutting them down.

Political and court sources say the Greens are the first environmental party to gain political standing in an Arab state.

Christians battle

French bid to convince Aoun to step down

BEIRUT, April 15. (AP): Rival Christian forces battled with tank cannon, mortars and machine guns in east Beirut yesterday as France was reported to be trying to convince Gen. Michel Aoun to step down.

At least seven people were wounded in a one-hour early morning battle along the edges of the hilltop residential district of Ashrafieh, a stronghold of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia.

Aoun's 19,000 troops and Geagea's militia have fought each other to a standstill since Jan. 30, killing 575 people and wounding 2,376 in their quest for dominance of the 31-square-mile (800-sq-km) Christian enclave.

The inconclusive showdown also has inflicted damage on property estimated at \$1 billion and forced about 400,000 people of the enclave's one million population to flee to safer areas in Lebanon and neighbouring states.

The two sides blamed each other for the morning flareup, which coincided with talks in Lebanon by Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi in an effort to salvage a peace pact, reached more than five months ago to end Lebanon's civil war.

The peace accord was worked out by Lebanese leg-

islators at the Saudi resort of Taif under Arab League auspices last October.

Aoun has rejected the Taif accord along with the election of Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi a month later.

Meanwhile, a Lebanese newspaper unveiled in Beirut on Saturday that President Elias Hrawi visited Damascus earlier this week and met with President Hafez Assad.

Quoting "reliable" sources, As Safir said that Hrawi secretly visited Syria four days ago and held intensive talks with President Assad and his deputy Abdelfattah Khaddam.

The Syrian-Lebanese summit, the paper added, discussed the situation in the Lebanese capital and Arab League's efforts to end fighting between the militias.

The talks also tackled proposals by leader of the Lebanese militias Samir Geagea concerning turning over barracks and areas it controls to the Lebanese government, according to the paper.

This is the second trip by Hrawi to Syria following his election as president last November.

Furore may dissuade settlers

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 15. (AP): Mayor Teddy Kollek said yesterday he feared the furore over the new Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter would dissuade Soviet immigrants from moving to the city, an official said.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, meanwhile, a Palestinian accused of collaborating with Israel died overnight of beating injuries suffered earlier in the week, hospital officials said.

They said Faiz Daud Timraz, 30, had been admitted to Shifa Hospital in serious condition on April 9 after he was beaten by masked Arab assailants.

Arab reporters said Timraz was a suspected collaborator. His death brought to 207 the number of Palestinians killed by their Arab brethren, most on suspicion of collaborating with Israel.

At least 673 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli soldiers or civilians during the 28-month long uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Forty-three Israeli have also died.

Speaking to five visiting US Senators, Kollek criticised Wednesday's occupation of a building complex in the Christian section of the walled Old City by some 150 Jewish nationalists, saying they were "extremists who concentrate only on themselves and their religious fervour."

"Once again annexed Jerusalem will be portrayed as a violent city and this will harm tourism, scare away potential investors and dissuade Soviet immigrants from choosing annexed Jerusalem as their home," spokeswoman Bonnie Boxer quoted him as saying.

Kollek has estimated that some 1,200 recent Soviet immigrants have settled in annexed Jerusalem and Israeli officials have estimated that over half a million Soviet Jews were expected to immigrate to Israel in the next three years.

Kollek's remarks came after the Senators, lead by Senate Republican leader Robert Dole, voiced their concern over the events surrounding the Jewish settlements, including Thursday's dispersal by tear-gas of hundreds of demonstrators protesting the move.

Meanwhile, some 50 Christian and Muslim Palestinians demonstrated outside the 72-room complex located in the heart of the Christian neighbourhood.

While armed border police and a contingent from the special police anti-terror squad guarded the building, the protesters chanted "there is no place for settlers in the holy city," Arab reporters said.

In the Gaza city, soldiers ordered the central market shut and imposed a curfew after Palestinian students blocked the main Omar Al Mukhtar Street with burning tyres and clashed with Israeli troops, Arab reports said.

They said at least six persons were wounded during scattered clashes throughout the occupied Gaza Strip, including a 9-year-old boy from the Jebaliya refugee camp who was hit in the right knee by army gunfire.

The said there were isolated stone-throwing clashes between soldiers and students after school let out and said they were checking the reports of wounded.

A Muslim militant group denounced the takeover by Jews of a disputed building inside the walled Old City of annexed Jerusalem.

The Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, also condemned the tear-gassing of Christian clergymen opposing Jewish settlement of St. John's hospital, a large complex near the church of the Holy Sepulchre, the traditional site of Jesus' entombment.

An American Jewish leader Seymour Reich has condemned the settlement by 150 Jews in a disputed Old City of annexed Jerusalem.

Reich, who is both international president of B'Nai B'Rith and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organisations, denounced it as offensive.



Latest power broker

Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, 88, an ultra-orthodox Brooklyn rabbi who has never set foot in Israel is the latest power broker in the Israeli Labour Party's attempt to form a government. Schneerson heads the Chabad-Lubavitch movement and wields influence over two members of the Agudat Israel Party, which had agreed to back Labour but then pulled out. One of the party members cited pressure from Schneerson.

(Reuter wirephoto)

French success raises questions

All hostages freed

PARIS, April 15. (AP): France has had 11 citizens held hostage in the Middle East, and it has managed to free them all.

Is it a Gothic flair for diplomacy or cynical deals with terrorists and their sponsors that account for France's success?

Is there, as one commentator asked, a special French method that can "manoeuvre around the obstacle that others run into?"

France makes an important distinction, said Bassam Kadmoni-Darwish, an expert on French-Middle East relations: "It doesn't bargain with terrorist groups. It negotiates with states."

Each time hostages come home, top government officials find themselves denying that France panders to terrorists.

"And it's true...it cannot be criticized" on that count, said Ms. Kadmoni-Darwish, who works for the French Institute for International Relations. "But it is also a hypocritical nation."

France came under fire from many prominent Western newspapers for lauding Col. Moammar Khaddafi of Libya for his role in securing the release Tuesday of French hostage Jacqueline Valente, her Belgian companion and their child.

The three were held for more than two years by the Libyan-controlled Fatalah-Revolutionary Council, headed by Abu Nidal.

Detractors draw little distinction between Abu Nidal's group and Khaddafi. France did.

Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who praised Khaddafi's "noble and humanitarian gesture" in seeking the truce, freedom and promised improved relations, said France did not talk with the abductors. He denied that France traded three jetfighters — sent to Libya several weeks ago — for the hostages.

France managed to free 10 of 11 hostages in 1986-88, when conservative Prime Minister Jacques Chirac was in power.

French thank-yous that followed those releases were never so effusive as those proffered to Khaddafi, but France made blatant concessions to Iran for the release of 10 hostages held by Iranian-backed groups in Lebanon.

All but one item on Iran's shopping list was met by the French, who expelled top Iranian dissident Massoud Rajavi, normalized relations with Iran and repaid part of a billion-dollar debt dating to the days of the toppled Shah.</

EVENTS

Why Al is Cagney and Lacey's top cop

He may be watched by millions on TV, but few people know Al Waxman's name. He's the tough-talking police chief in Cagney and Lacey, who puts the hard edge on his performance by going on patrol with real policemen

Al says: "I've been a waiter. I've been a bouncer. I've been with work and without work. The experiences have taught me about life, people and the things that make them tick. It has to make you a better actor to understand these feelings."

To start with, Al didn't set out to be an actor. Instead he just did it as a hobby, as he studied at the University of Western Ontario and Toronto's Law School.

Al explains: "I thought I wanted to be a lawyer, but after I got into law school I realised it wasn't what I wanted. Acting had always been my favourite hobby so I decided to go for it."

Now Al commutes to Los Angeles, where Cagney and Lacey is filmed three times a month which takes up most of his time. In the past though he has also appeared on stage. In Canada he landed the title role in the blockbuster production The King of Kensington for which he won the Canadian equivalent of an Emmy.

Cagney and Lacey has opened up other police roles for Waxman too. In the film Collision Course he plays a "racist, backstabbing whiner" — a cop who is the complete opposite to Lt Samuels.

He says: "Samuels was pretty nasty in the pilot film. He had no respect for policewomen. But over the years, he has gradually learned to respect Cagney and Lacey. Now he even has a fondness for them."

Yet there is little of Waxman in the character of Lt Samuels. "I'm not like him. I enjoy being with my family," Al explains. "I like to work but I don't look at work as an escape from home, like Samuels does."

For Al, home is certainly where the heart is — and his wife, Sara, is one of his biggest fans and supporters. "When things were going badly at work, my marriage became so good that it was soon more important than anything, even my career," he adds.

Today, Al still spends as much time as he can with his wife, a

cookery columnist and his two sons, Toby, 16, and Adam, 14.

Now Al is looking forward to the new series of Cagney and Lacey, which will see some interesting developments. For a start, Al will be seen doing someone and he will become a grandfather for the first time.

Like many Hollywood actors Al is also turning his hand to directing and directed five episodes of Cagney and Lacey in the last series. "I like to see things from both sides of the camera," he says.

"I enjoy directing, especially when it's my show, because there is such a strong, mutual respect among all the cast members."

"On set it's an atmosphere of love and friendship. That's what makes a show like this really work, because it can't help but come through to the audience."

With Cagney and Lacey recently scooping a prize as one of America's top TV shows it's obviously a winning formula. One Al is determined to keep going....

ACTOR Al Waxman has learned not to get offended when people come up to him in the street for an autograph — even though they don't know his name.

Al is the tough police chief Lieutenant Samuels in the hit TV show Cagney and Lacey — a role that has brought him fortune and recognition.

But playing alongside sexy Hollywood stars Sharon Gless and Tyne Dale, his name tends to get forgotten.

Al says: "On the street they'll look and say 'I know you, you're that guy who plays the police boss.'

Everyone knows who Al Waxman is, but not many know my name."

Last year however, 52-year-old Al was recognised in a different fashion, when he was honoured by the New York police department for his realistic portrayal of Lt Samuels. He was only the second actor to have received the award — the first

being Telly Savalas more than a decade ago for his role as Kojak.

For Al keeps up with what is happening in the real police world, by doing the rounds with working policeman.

He even modelled the character of Lt Samuels on one of his personal police chums and explains: "Every chance I get, I go out and travel with the cops."

"I zeroed in on one guy who seemed exactly what Samuels ought to be — tough but fair, and above all human. That we won an award is a comment on the show. We obviously reflect the professional and personal lives of the police officer."

Cagney and Lacey fans think so too. Yet when the show was first screened on television it was a flop.

It started life as a one-off movie, then progressed to a short six-episode series commissioned by CBS, only to be axed when it failed to achieve success in the ratings. Its small band of devoted fans soon called for the show to be reinstated though the second time round it proved a huge success.

Waxman himself says he never lost faith in Cagney and Lacey's potential though. He recalls: "I knew the show wasn't over. We had more stories to tell."

He couldn't have been more right. The role has also brought Al the fame and fortune he had dreamed of as an actor. At 29, he was working as a cook in Los Angeles and after a bit part in an episode of TV's Ben Casey, he decided to give up acting altogether and return to his hometown of Toronto.



A fair cop: Al Waxman, who plays Lt Samuels the 'tough but fair' police boss of the hit TV series Cagney and Lacey

WHAT'S ON

SOCIAL

May Queen
Goan Welfare Society will crown the May Queen at the Messiahs Beach Hotel on Thursday May 10 from 9 pm onwards. Top Ranks in attendance. For further details Tel: 4881387 or 5618971.

SPORTS

Hyderabad Sports Day

The committee for sports for celebration of 400 year anniversary of Hyderabad (Deccan) is organising a sports day on 27th April 1990 (or next day of Eid) at Jeeb Al Shuwaikh ground (behind Jeeb Al Shuwaikh cinema). The schedule of programme is as follows:

9 to 12 am: Festival cricket match for veterans.

12 to 2 pm: Break for prayer and lunch.

2 to 5 pm: Sports for ladies, children and agents.

5 to 6 pm: Formal inauguration

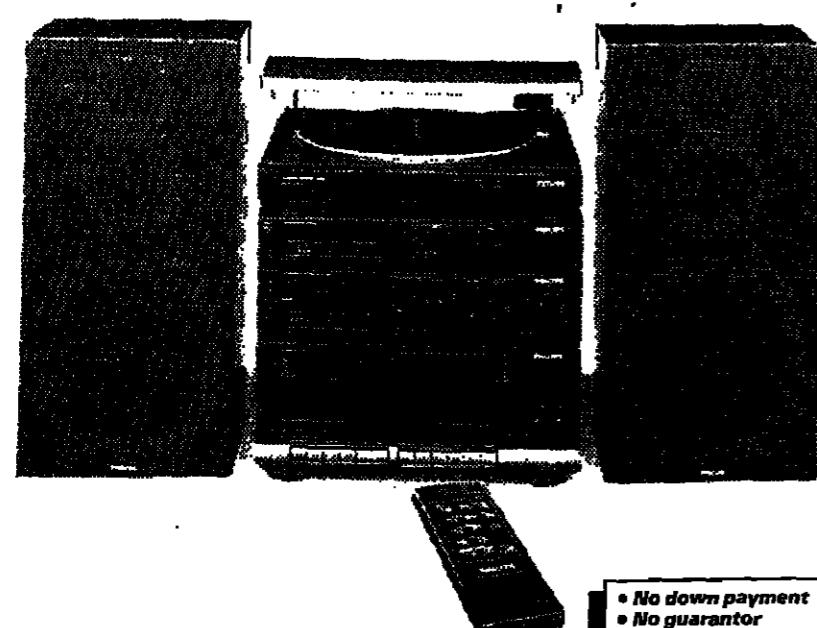
of the festivities.
The events are open for all present and former residents of Hyderabad and their families. No entry fees will be charged. Festival cricket match is open for veterans above 40 years (relaxable to 35 years). All veterans are requested to register their names with Dr Naidu (Tel: 4842578). All Hyderabadi are requested to attend the sports day and inaugural function with families and friends in large numbers.

Hyderabad - Table tennis
The sports committee for celebration of 400 year anniversary of Hyderabad (Deccan) will conduct a Table Tennis tournament for men, women and juniors during the first week of May 1990. All present and former residents of Hyderabad and their children are eligible. Those interested in participation are requested to register their names with Mr Farid (Tel: 4763438) or Dr Naidu (Tel: 4842578).



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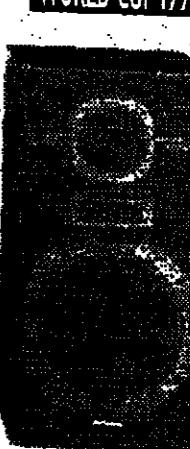
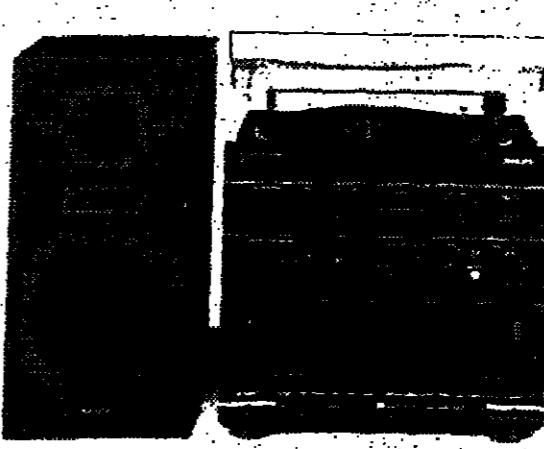
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Narthana dance programmes

NARTHANA dance group of Mrs Prameela Surendran, who have entertained the public through their shows since the past few years, is now getting ready for their next presentations.

The first will be a two-hour dance programme by Narthana at Sharq Co-operative Society Auditorium on April 27, in connection with the Kuwait-India Telugu Association anniversary celebrations.

On May 10, Narthana will celebrate its sixth anniversary and Parents Day at Indian Embassy Hall with dances, music and dinner. The entire show will be for 3 hours.

In the first week of November, Narthana is planning to stage a show which is entirely different than its previous ones. The show will consist of short ballets, and presentation of short Nrithasans based on stories of Arabian Knights, and Bible stories etc.

Surendran, the director of Narthana, said that apart from the daily practice of Indian classical dances, these type of frequent stage programmes help to arouse the interest of students in this art, and gives confidence and a chance to correct their errors.

KTV 1

1.00 Opening and Holy Quran

1.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)

1.30 World Animals: cultural serial

2.00 Kabool Adventures: cartoon serial

2.30 Maa Al Sabreen: historical serial

3.10 Human Health: cultural programme

3.35 Maraya 88: Arabic serial (part 5)

4.15 Rassel Al Ekha: local programme

4.30 Rafat Al Hajian: Arabic serial (part 21)

5.35 Hadeeth Deen: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Metwalli Al Sharawi

6.15 Baada Al Estar: religious programme

6.30 Mazenger: cartoon serial

7.00 Madenat Al Ajayeb: local children's serial (part 21)

7.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements

8.15 Security and citizens: local programme, prepared by the Ministry of the Interior Public Relations office

9.00 Juhayna: cultural programme (part 21)

9.45 Sawafeer Min Al Madhi: local programme (part 21)

10.00 News in Arabic

10.45 Lil Hayat Bayiqah: local serial (part 5)

12.00 Layali Al Helmiya: Arabic serial (part 3)

1.15 Cultural late night show: presented and prepared by Amal Abdullah

2.30 News Summary

2.35 The World Today via Satellite

2.50 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

8.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran

8.10 A cartoon series for children

8.30 Charles in Charge

Charles is charged by his professor to teach a number of the university students and prepare their thesis.

9.00 News in English

9.30 Welcome Ramadan A

religious programmes on the occasion of Holy Ramadan

9.45 Around the World: A variety of topics, events and incidents from all over the world...

10.15 The Equalizer: The Visitation. An arm-monger orders his followers to kill a singer who refused to supply him with arms and ammunitions.

Post mortem examinations proved that the dead man's body hosts a dangerous germ.

11.00 Family Matters: Two income Family

Harriette Karl's wife is discharged from her work and Karl's mother takes over expenditure matters in a very strict way...

11.30 Clasical colour Movie: "Woman" of the Year

1.30 News in Brief

1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA

Al Andalus: Rolling Vengeance

Al Salmiyah: The Survivalist

Al Hasira: Arabic film

Drive-in: Arabic film

Al Firdous: Dost

Fakheel: Open Khuda Kasam

Fakheel: The Blue Lugana

Al Jaha: Halloween 4

Grands Chase

Safadiyat: Supergirl

Jeeb: Shato

Almed Drive-In: Distinct Thunder

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Japan's economy forecast in '90

TOKYO, April 15, (UPI): Influential Japanese think tanks have predicted Japan's economy will continue sustained growth in fiscal 1990 despite the recent slump in the stock market and rising interest rates.

Research institutes of the "big four" brokerage houses said, however, they were forced to revise downward their projections because of the dramatic change for the worse in Japan's economic environment, which they said would trim Japan's net economic growth by 0.1 percent to 0.3 percent.

The government, anticipating robust personal consumption and capital investment by corporations, has projected a net 4.0 percent growth for Japan's economy in fiscal 1990, which began April 1.

The research institutes of Nomura, Daiwa, Nikko and Yamaichi Securities companies said Japan's economy is certain to continue its expansion, extending beyond the second longest span of continuous growth after World War II.

The revised economic growth rates projected by the four companies ranged from 3.9 per cent to 4.4 per cent.

The government said Japan's economy, which entered the 41st consecutive month of expansion in April is certain to exceed the second postwar record of 42 months of expansion recorded from June 1958 to December 1961.

The research institutes said personal consumption would remain steady despite the recent tumble on the Tokyo Stock Exchange because of substantial wage hikes earned by organised workers this spring.

Japanese workers earned wage increases of slightly less than 6.0 per cent this year or the highest in several years because of good corporate earnings, the Federation of Employers' Associations reported.

The research institutes said the recent stock market slump and rising interest rates were responsible for downward revision of their projections.

The central bank action led to higher interest rates on commercial loans, resulting in slower corporate capital investment and housing investment.

The recent stock price tumble forced many enterprises to postpone their plans to raise funds on the market through issuance of new shares and bonds.

The total market value of the Tokyo Stock Exchange slumped 24.0 per cent to 448 trillion yen (\$2.89 trillion) from a high of 591 trillion yen (\$3.8 trillion) Dec. 29.

The blue chip Nikkei average of 225 selected issues has fallen 25.0 per cent to 29,213.92 yen since the beginning of this year.

The long-term credit bank said its survey conducted earlier this year showed that plant and equipment investment expenditures by Japanese corporations in fiscal 1990 will remain brisk and total 22.285 trillion yen (\$144 billion), up 9.0 per cent over last year.

The Nomura Research Institute said slow economic growth will cause favourable impact, easing inflationary pressure and stabilising domestic prices.

The central bank said, however, that Japan's wholesale prices in fiscal 1989 rose 3.5 per cent, the first rise in five years, largely because of a weak yen and higher crude oil prices.

The stronger yen makes Japanese products more competitive on overseas markets but makes imported goods more expensive.

The yen's value has declined 13.22 yen or 9.0 percent to 158.42 yen per dollar from 145.20 at the beginning of this year.

Iran to spend about \$6b on petrochemicals

NICOSIA, April 15, (Reuters): Iran is to spend nearly \$6 billion on its petrochemical industry over the next five years, the country's Deputy Oil Minister Ahmad Rahgozar was yesterday reported as saying.

The Iranian news agency IRNA, received in Nicosia, quoted Rahgozar as

as telling the quarterly magazine 'Iran Exports' that more than half of the \$5.71 billion being spent on the industry would come from foreign exchange.

He said that a billion dollars alone would be spent on the mothballed petrochemicals plant at Bandar Khomenei, hit by Iraqi air attacks

during the Gulf war.

Iran, which had been building the plant with the Iranians, pulled out of the scheme during the war and decided against resuming work following the ceasefire in August, 1988 saying it would be cheaper to build a new plant.

Rahgozar, who is also managing

director of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), was quoted as saying several foreign companies had been approached to work on the project and while no firm decision had yet been taken, South Korea was most likely to be awarded the contract.

In February, French engineering

group Technip said it had won a management contract for the 'rehabilitation, construction and start-up' of the Bandar Khomenei plant.

Japan's Mitsui Group had earlier paid Iran \$900 million in compensation for withdrawing from the project.

Rahgozar said \$1 billion would be

allocated to a plant at Arak which was expected to be producing by 1992 and a scheme at Isfahan would get a \$300 million boost.

"The Tabriz project will receive \$900 million and will be built with foreign co-operation through a buy-back system," Rahgozar said.

GATT aims to ease barriers to the flow of goods

Ministers to review free trade reform

WASHINGTON, April 15, (Reuters): Leaders of the international free trade movement in Mexico this week aiming to revive efforts to break down barriers to world commerce.

Ministers from members of the free trade grouping, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), will try to solve disputes ranging from farm subsidies to investment.

"We want to get the negotiations going forward — energise the process," said US trade representative Carla Hills of the conference in the Pacific Coast resort of Puerto Vallarta.

Many nations, rich and poor alike, remain far apart on key issues that could block a successful conclusion of the current round of GATT talks, scheduled to end in December in Brussels.

"At this stage, everybody is concerned that we haven't shifted into high gear," said one senior trade official.

Stands taken by GATT's 97 members since the latest four-year round of negotiations began in Uruguay in September 1988 vary radically, and the official said there is an awful lot to do."

GATT aims to ease barriers to the global flow of goods and services but its members are divided on how to achieve that and how to extend its free-trade rules to agriculture and fast-growing areas like banking and other financial services.

The United States and major produce exporters want to end subsidies, but are being fought by the European Community (EEC).

Industrial nations, including the United States and the 12-member EEC, want GATT rules widened to cover trade in services such as banking, telecommunications and construction.

But they are being opposed by

some developing nations which see the effort as "neo-colonialism" — to enable the established banking giants of the rich industrialised world swallow up the fledgling banks of the Third World.

The Mexico meeting, starting on Wednesday, comes at a time of trade tensions between Japan and the United States and a wary truce between Washington and Brussels over EEC moves toward a single market, but officials say this should not deter progress.

They say the stakes are too high and, moreover, Japan, the United States and EEC are in the same corner on many contentious issues, though not on farm subsidies.

Hills has said repeatedly that the United States would walk away from the GATT negotiations rather than accept compromises that were not in its best

interests. She has said compromise was necessary, but "we will not disarm unilaterally. Trade reform means reform by all."

In addition to ending farm subsidies and bringing services under world trade rules, the United States and GATT's other members have agreed to work to end piracy of such intellectual property rights as patents and copyrights.

The senior trade official, who asked not to be named, said the meeting in Mexico would be the last major chance for political positions to be staked out in time for a July meeting of GATT's trade negotiations committee.

He said GATT Secretary General Arthur Dunkel wanted a draft final agreement written in July, even though it would contain qualifications to be worked out before the December talks.

Bank cuts rates on deposits

BEIJING, April 15, (IAP): Interest rates on bank deposits were reduced by 1.26 per cent points today in a move aimed at stimulating China's sluggish economy.

The People's Bank of China, the central bank, said the new rates would apply to deposits by individuals, enterprises and institutions, the official press reported.

They follow a decision by the bank to lower interest rates on business loans by the same 1.26 percentage points March 21.

The interest rate on a one-year deposit will fall from 11.34 to 10.08 per cent, while the rate for a three-year deposit will drop from 13.14 per cent to 11.88 per cent.

News reports quoted a bank spokesman as saying the rates were lowered to maintain the stability of the money market and protect the interests of depositors at a time when commodity prices have been dropping steadily.

Tough austerity measures imposed in late 1988 have succeeded in reducing inflation from a high of more than 30 per cent to about 4 per cent in February, but at the cost of a sharp economic slowdown that has chilled consumer demand and led to thousands of plant closures.

In recent months the government, concerned about economic recession, has begun easing up on its tight credit policies and increasing the money supply to bail out debt-ridden companies.

People's Bank governor Li Guizhu said the reduction of interest rates on loans in March would cut enterprise debt burdens by 17 billion yuan (\$3.6 billion) a year.

Currency dealer hanged

KHARTOUM, April 15, (AP): A black market foreign currency dealer, convicted of trying to smuggle more than \$21,000 to Kenya, was hanged to death yesterday, a relative said today.

He is the third convicted foreign currency dealer to be hanged by military strongman Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir since he made the crime punishable by death shortly after he came to power June 30.

The relative, who declined to be named, identified the convicted man as Arkangello Iga Daro, a southern Sudanese in his twenties.

HILL's idea of offering a 'golden reward' too is appropriate as it fully backs Indus Valley's claim of being the only product to offer consumers the purest Basmati rice in the market. And considering its distinct flavour and aroma, it's not surprising that Indus today is ahead of various other products in the same category.

With the promotion already off to a flying start the finish promises to be bright. Consumers who have so far enjoyed feasting with Indus Valley now have the chance of even striking it rich. Certainly for every one Indus Valley rice is now worth its weight in gold.

Contacts taking place

Opec to resolve oil crisis

QUITO, Ecuador, April 15, (Reuters): The 13 members of the Opec oil organisation are making efforts to resolve the current crisis in world oil markets, a senior Ecuadorian energy official said yesterday.

"Contacts are taking place at ministerial level to see what is the best action at this time, but still there is nothing concrete, nothing has been decided yet," said the government official.

The current world-wide oil glut has led to a sharp drop in crude prices. West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark US crude, fell 28 cents to \$17.78 a barrel on Thursday, down from nearly \$23 a barrel at the beginning of the year. The markets were closed on Friday.

The situation of oil production in the Gulf countries is being analysed especially," the Ecuadorian official said.

On Thursday, Ecuador's Deputy Energy Minister Carlos Izurieta said the oversupply of crude and depressed oil prices were delaying the shipment of the country's crude by long-term buyers.

The Ecuadorian official said Opec nations had considered moving up a regular conference scheduled for May or calling a meeting of the Opec monitoring committee, but felt concrete proposals would have to be presented beforehand to avoid raising expectations.

Izurieta said in urgent meeting of Opec at a time when some members might be producing above their quotas could hurt the unity of the organisation.

He said Opec pumped an average 24 million barrels of crude per day in March, two million barrels above the daily quota.

Meanwhile, an Oman newspaper expressed concern yesterday at instability in world oil markets and cautioned against overproduction.

"This instability is a cause for concern to all oil-producing states whether Opec or non-Opec members," the Oman Daily said in an editorial.

"Exceeding oil production quotas and the tendency to produce more oil not only lead to lower prices but eventually mean a waste of this...irreplaceable energy," the Oman News Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted the paper as saying.

"They also hamper efforts...within and outside Opec to stabilise oil prices at \$18 per barrel," the paper said.

An oil glut has sent world prices tumbling to about \$18 a barrel from nearly \$23 at the beginning of the year.

Indus Valley rice lovers now have something very exciting to look forward to in the coming weeks. Hindustan Lever has announced a major promotion to reinforce the position of their popular Basmati rice product — Indus Valley. Set to coincide with Ramadan, the promotion itself is simple yet very interesting. Consumers willing to take up the challenge stand the chance of winning nearly a kilo of gold over the next six weeks. Commenting on the promotion Mr Saurav Adhikari, Operations Manager (Exports), said "We wanted to make Ramadan very special for our loyal customers and this was the perfect way of doing so".

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Slower growth for US economy

THERE were very few fresh factors this week to influence a specific dollar trend and it therefore remained within a narrow range, according to NBK's weekly market review.

The market was surprised when retail sales fell for the second consecutive month by the largest amount in six months, providing further evidence that the economy is slowing in the eighth year of its expansion.

The dollar ended the week almost unchanged at DM1.67 and Yen 158.2.

We anticipate that the dollar will be well underpinned for the foreseeable future, benefiting from its safe-haven status in tandem to a volatile Japanese market and doubts about the full implications of events in Europe, and could indeed advance further.

The retail sales figure endorsed last week's unemployment figures and suggest that US activity could be weaker than market expectations. The Central Bank is expected to concede to mounting political pressure from the administration for the need for a relaxation in monetary policy. However, against the need to fund the country's external deficit, and higher interest rates outside of the US, a significant downward adjustment in interest rates is not visualised.

Trading ranges for the coming week are forecast to be as follows: DM1.65-1.70 and Yen 157-161.

The pound lost ground this week due to nervousness about the political situation and in anticipation of increased inflationary pressures as confirmed by the rises in output prices, average earnings and the retail price index.

Factory gate prices reached a five year high whilst the RPI number, excluding mortgage payments, rose 6.3 per cent in the year to March and is at the highest level since February 1983 when prices increased 6.7 per cent.

The pound ended the week at £ 1.64 and £ DM2.75.

Sterling's position remains fragile reflective of growing political concern, with the government currently over 20 per cent behind the opposition party in the opinion polls, as well as economic weakness.

Nevertheless current policy concerns remain with inflation. With wage settlements having reached 9.5 per cent, and unemployment still falling, set against slower output growth, this implies increased labour costs per unit of output. With inflation currently at 8.1 per cent and upward pressure being exerted on April's Retail Price Index by the introduction of the community charge tax, inflation is likely to exceed 9.0 per cent before declining modestly and a further interest rate rise cannot be ruled out.

Trading ranges for the coming week are forecast to be as follows: DM2.73-2.76 and £ 1.62-1.66.

Despite the on-going controversy over the likely conversion rate to be adopted for currency unification, the deutschemark continued to trade within a fairly narrow range during the course of the week.

West Germany's retail sales rose an inflation-adjusted 4.3 per cent in February from the year-earlier, while nominal sales climbed 6.5 per cent during the year.

As expected the G7 statement of concern regarding the weak yen following their meeting last weekend contributed very little towards underpinning the currency as it offered no specific policy commitments.

Given the volatility of the Japanese Stock market at present to the possibility of higher interest rates, the Japanese authorities are still expected to lag the market in raising interest rates. The yen market is likely to remain nervous for sometime to come and further yen depreciation is anticipated.

Japan's trade surplus in the fiscal year ended March 31, 1990, narrowed to an unadjusted \$39.68 billion from \$78.87 billion in 1988/89 whilst its trade surplus with the US also shrank to \$42.75 billion from \$48.96 billion for the same period.

Exchange Rates

	Indian rupee	17.100
Sri Lankan rupee	7.420	
Pakistani rupee	13.650	
Bangladesh taka	8.610	
US dollar	29.375	
Pound sterling	46.700	
UAE dirham	0.7995	
Deutsche mark	17.950	
Japanese yen	0.01658	

Bid to help build hi-tech industry

Taiwanese return home from US

HSINCHU, Taiwan, April 15. (AP): C.T. Wu is back in Taiwan, leaving behind in the United States a promising career in high-tech communications, an \$800,000 house outside Washington and a lifestyle he adored.

Wu gave it all up to start his own company at the science-based industrial park in this gritty city about 70 kilometres (43 miles) southwest of Taipei. Along with hundreds of well-educated professionals, Wu is returning to help extend Taiwan's economic miracle into the 21st century.

Wu, 36, lived the American dream during his 11 years in the United States, receiving a doctorate in communications and winning GTE's highest technical achievement award for his work in satellites.

But he decided to return to Taiwan in 1988 to take advantage of lower labour costs and easier access to capital to start up his own communications business.

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The terms governing cargo flights and air charters have also been liberalized.

Air taxis will now be allowed to operate to all airports in the country open to scheduled operations instead of the 55 specified airports as at present.

The present ceiling of 50 seats on aircrafts operated under the scheme has been lifted but a minimum seating capacity of 15 has

"I'm an entrepreneur at heart," Wu explained from the bare offices of his 6-month-old company, National Datacom Corp., in the Industrial Park.

Henry H. Sun, another fledgling entrepreneur at the Industrial Park, is chairman of the 1 1/2-year-old Coast Hitech Corp. which produces microwave components for radar and missiles.

Sun, 57, said he worked for ITT Corp. in space defence before setting up coast hitech with two partners who also came from the United States.

The co-founders view the company in part as a way "to pass on their knowledge and experience to the people in Taiwan," Sun said.

The returning experts are critical to Taiwan, an export-oriented economic powerhouse that is finding many of its low-skill manufacturing industries can no longer compete with neighbouring Asian countries offering cheaper land

and labour.

The transformation is already making headway, as experts say Taiwan will soon become the world's fourth largest manufacturer of semiconductors. Among the more than 100 companies that have set up shop in the park are 25 semiconductor firms and more than 30 others involved in computer technology.

The government-run Industrial Park, established a decade ago, entices entrepreneurs with such incentives as profit tax holidays and duty exemptions.

The park has several representatives overseas, including one in the heart of California's high-tech "Silicon Valley," to help convince Taiwan's brightest to return home to start their own companies or join existing high-tech projects.

More than half of the 1,000 people with graduate degrees working in the

park have returned from overseas. Klaus C. Wiemer, president of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., said he employs about 50 Taiwanese recruited from the United States.

"If it becomes known that I'm looking for a particular person like a quality control manager, then it's not only a matter of weeks before the resumes start rolling in by fax," he said.

Wiemer, a US citizen whose company is a joint venture between the government and N.V. Phillips of Holland, claims professionals are returning to Taiwan for several reasons.

Technology in the most advanced companies here is finally reaching levels comparable to that of US firms, so challenging jobs can now be found for top engineers.

While initial salaries in Taiwan may be relatively low, returning professionals can make a lot of money acquiring

stock in their new companies before they go public.

And, Wiemer noted, "Chinese are family oriented, so many of the people who left 10 to 20 years ago see their parents getting very old and now they want to come back and be close to them."

Wiemer said the drain of some top talent back to Taiwan, particularly with intense global competition in high-tech industries, "certainly is going to hurt (the United States), but at least the outflow is to a friendly nation."

A diplomat at the de facto US embassy in Taipei, speaking on condition of anonymity, said US officials are not worried about highly skilled Taiwanese leaving their posts in US companies.

Indeed, the number of returnees probably represents just a fraction of bright Taiwanese who go abroad. An average of 6,500 Taiwan students leave US citizenship.

for US universities annually, according to the Education Ministry. Statistics indicate more than half stay, it said.

In addition, the government also might face the day when the same experts or their families begin heading back to the United States. Many of the returnees openly acknowledge they are put off by Taiwan's island's increasing crime, deteriorating environment and turbulent society.

"It's been very hard to adjust to life here," Wu said.

When asked if he was glad to be back, he responded: "Not really."

Sun wants to retire in the United States, where his wife and children still live, and Wu also plans to go back after five or six years.

"Mentally wise, I'm 100 percent American," said Wu, who prominently displays in his office a hand-drawn flag, his colleague's, given him upon receiving US citizenship.

Gorbachev's advisers clash over package

Meeting on Soviet economic reforms

MOSCOW, April 15. (Reuter): President Mikhail Gorbachev's top advisers clashed yesterday over his nervously-awaited economic reforms designed to introduce the basics of a market economy.

The 16-member Presidential Council was joined by the Council of the Federation, made up of government leaders from the 15 Soviet republics, and by invited academic experts to try to set a course for Gorbachev's reforms.

The official news agency Tass said discussion was expected to continue next week but it gave no precise date.

It said all agreed with the Soviet leader's often stated view that urgent action was essential.

After state planning chief Yuri Maslyukov read out the proposed package there was an "exchange of opinions," a phrase normally signifying disagreement.

Tass listed 17 speakers, including such close Gorbachev aides as Alexander Yakovlev and

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, and radical economist Abel Aganbegyan. Gorbachev himself was not mentioned as having spoken.

It was not clear whether Gorbachev originally intended the package to be finalised on Saturday or whether an extension of the debate into a second day was foreseen.

Disagreement has surfaced in the past among radicals and conservatives in the leadership over the pace and depth of reform.

The government has denied that it plans to follow the economic "shock therapy" adopted by Poland, rumours of which sparked off fears of massive price rises and unemployment.

It has gone out of its way to prepare the people for some stiff belt-tightening, feeding them grim warnings and economic figures.

Officials have said the package will include new laws on private enterprise, banking, foreign investment, the breakup of some

state monopoly powers, taxation and price structure.

Government economist Leonid Abalkin has said no monetary reform is included and ruled out any move to make the rouble convertible in the near future.

Gorbachev has wasted no opportunity to press home the urgency of moving the economy rapidly towards his goal of a "regulated market economy" after decades of tight central planning.

He has promised if necessary to use presidential powers he acquired only last month to impose the most urgent parts of the package by decree, bypassing the slow-moving parliament.

Prices of Soviet goods, to be raised as the country moves towards a market economy, are to be grouped into three categories with varying degrees of state control, a senior official was quoted as saying yesterday.

State Prices Committee chair-

man Vyacheslav Sennachagov said the increases would begin at some point this year but in different phases to protect low-income groups.

In an interview with the Communist Party daily Pravda, Sennachagov said the state would continue to set prices for key commodities such as oil, gas, coal and ferrous metals but these would take account of currently higher prices on world markets.

"The state will retain, quite naturally, the right to establish prices for basic goods which have an effect on the conditions in which industry operates and on the level of retail prices," he told the daily.

A second group, he said, would be subject to "regulated prices" — which could rise and fall within prescribed limits. He did not specify which goods these would cover, but said fluctuations would depend on productivity and the relation between supply and demand.

Fresh move to establish ties

Seoul seeks E.European markets

SEOUL, April 15. (AP): South Korea, fresh from establishing ties with several East European nations in the past 14 months, is working hard to make the diplomatic thrust pay off.

South Korea's export-driven economy, now sluggish because of stockpiled inventories and low investments, may find new and lucrative markets in those nations.

"We have scored a great diplomatic success, and it's time to think about what we can reap from it," said South Korean Prime Minister Kang Young-Hoon, speaking recently in a radio interview.

The new diplomatic ties with capitalist South Korea at a time when several hard-line communist governments in Eastern Europe have given way to multiparty politics.

For years, South Korea was stymied in efforts to improve relations with those East bloc governments, primarily because of its own opposition to communist North Korea, North and South waged a war between 1950 and 1953.

South Korea's diplomatic deadlock was broken several months after the 1988 Olympics in Seoul with Hungary's acceptance of formal relations. The

Olympics served as a showcase for South Korea to demonstrate its economic prowess.

Seven other socialist governments that had allied themselves with North Korea have since established formal ties with South Korea. They are Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Romania, Algeria and Mongolia.

Negotiations are also under way to set up diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, an ally.

By year's end, East Germany also is expected to open an embassy in Seoul, leaving Albania the only country left in Eastern Europe unrepresented in South Korea.

Government and business leaders hope the new initiatives will bring a windfall. They point to the billions of dollars Korean contractors earned in the 1970s and 80s in the oil-rich Middle East.

They shrug off worries that communist rule of Eastern Europe have left those nations bankrupt and cash deficient, pointing out that barter trade would allow South Korea to swap finished export goods for needed raw materials.

"Despite a considerable amount of risks and

Britain's favourite Mum! People bask in the warmth of her smile ... and she loves it

THERE is one simple secret to the success of the Queen Mother as she approaches her 90th birthday. All she needs is... love.

Wherever she goes, she bewitches everyone. Enchantment ripples around her. People bask in the warmth of her smile. She leaves them happier than she found them.

But this is no fairytale royal. She can't use the fashion flair and figure of a top model to earn regular appearances on magazine covers all over the globe and keep her glamour rating on the rise.

This is a chunky little lady, whose curves have long ago been glossed over by those distinctive cross-over bodices and light coats, the matching pastel hats, veils, and shoes that, with the triple strand of pearls, are her trademark.

The Queen Mother needs no props or plows. Her genuine love of people communicates itself, spontaneously, to everyone who sees her.

And that is not just the public face of one of the world's best-loved figures. She is adored by her own family, too. Her daughters, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great grandchildren.

Three generations of royals have found her a confident to rely on — discreet, patient, reassuring, slow to judge. And, unfailingly, loving.

The passing of years have polished the professionalism. But behind every public performance there is always the same underlying foundation stone — a genuine, loving care.

Noel Coward once said she left behind her a trail of "gibbering worshippers." He was right. And they include hardened newspapermen and women to whom she always shows the same concern and consideration.

No photographer ever fails to get his picture of her. The Queen Mother sees to that. She will re-enact, wave again.

Many a new career that came close to shipwreck in the nervous excitement of a first royal assignment has been saved by her co-operation.

She always runs late. But it is not the lateness of indifference but of irresistible interest.

She always slows her car to take an unexpected bouquet through the window. She will often make an unexpected stop to climb down from her limousine to shake unscheduled hands, especially if they are very old or very young.

She is too modest ever to have agreed with Coward's extravagant description of her impact on people. But she is, nevertheless, aware of the chemistry between herself and strangers.

She has said: "I must admit that sometimes I feel something flow out of me. It makes me feel very tired for a moment. Then I seem to get something back from the people, — sympathy, goodwill. I do not know exactly what — and I feel strength again. In fact recharged. It is an exchange."

But if she had learned the tricks of the trade — like balancing her weight evenly between both feet to enable her to stand for hours, like plucking one flower from a bouquet before passing the rest to an attendant — the warmth, the desire to please is always with her.

Lady Elizabeth Angela Marquise Bowes-Lyon was born with the century, on August 4, 1900. She was the eighth of nine children of the titled but little-known Scottish family, the Strathmores.

Unaware that his baby was destined for the history books, her father, Lord Glamis, soon to be the 14th Earl of Strathmore,



The pretty seven-year-old — little knowing that her destiny lay on the throne of empire.



Then loving portrait painted of Britain's most revered royal — the Queen Mother



Now Britain's favourite Mum. Her smile enchanted everyone she ever met



Family at home. Queen Elizabeth takes tea with husband Bertie and the two Princesses, Elizabeth and Margaret.



A great outdoor lady and lover of sport — Lady Elizabeth with a Highland hound.

the abdication had rocked the monarchy to its very foundations.



Mother and child — the two Elizabeths.



Queen Elizabeth inspects blitzed war-time ruins with King George VI. Churchill christened her 'Britain's secret weapon.'

Fashion

The Salazar look stands out on Lisbon streets

LISBON, (Reuter): Portugal exports miles of fabric but only one label carries any weight abroad.

The name is Ana Salazar and her offbeat fashion has revolutionised style in a country better known for dowdiness than innovative dress sense.

But while her eccentric creations are gaining recognition in Paris and Milan, the clientele is still small in her native Portugal. Western Europe's poorest country.

"There is little fashion sense in Portugal," laments 48-year-old Salazar, adjusting her 1930's lamé and copper-tinted hair. "Most women here, especially those who can afford my clothes, are very conservative."

She is different. Amid the safe uniforms of blazers and matronly skirts on Lisbon streets, the Salazar look jumps out — a blend of the modern and the nostalgic.

Salazar — in a timeless black wool dress, diaphanous scarf and large geometric rings — is a walking advertisement for her sophisticated vision.

This lone ranger of Lisbon fashion epitomises a new breed of Portuguese professionals trying to etch a name abroad and shake off the country's provincial reputation.

And while introducing fresh style to a conservative public may have its frustrations, it also offers pay-offs.

Since launching her own line in 1979, Salazar has won international accolades as Portugal's leading designer.

Two boutiques in Lisbon, one in Paris and outlets in New York, Milan and Tokyo generate annual sales of 200 million escudos (\$1.3 million). She hopes to double that over the next couple of years.

Salazar is launching a perfume to be sold abroad — a first for a Portuguese designer — and a line of towels and sheets and possibly spectacles are next.

Salazar, who draws inspiration from past decades and Paris street fashion, inherited an eye for aesthetics from her father, Oskar Pinto Lobo, a leading Portuguese painter-architect.

As a young girl her passion was drawing out-of-cuts for cut-off dolls and after a spell of abstract painting she decided to devote herself to her first love, clothes design.

In 1972 she opened a boutique selling imported British fashion and after the 1974 leftist revolution she created some of Portugal's first fashion shows and eventually her own line.

Experimental farms similar to Kenya's

Bio-intensive farming may help Africa feed itself

KITALE, Kenya, (Reuter): The students of Manor House Agricultural Centre hope their humble response to Africa's chronic food shortages may succeed where mechanisation and heavy use of artificial fertiliser and pesticide have failed.

The students of this private agricultural college in western Kenya are disciples of "bio-intensive" farming.

This uses muck, manpower, scientific know-how and a dash of home chemistry to get the best out of traditional farming techniques.

Working only with hoes and forks, the students have prised the soil into producing three times as many potatoes and four times as much lettuce as it did a few years ago.

All this has been achieved without irrigation or factory-made fertilisers and pesticides.

The first secret of success at Manor House is to put more care than usual into soil preparation and planting.

The soil in the vegetable beds is loosened to a depth of two feet (60 cm) and seedlings are planted closer together than usual. Both these measures conserve water.

Compost, and other organic fertilisers are heavily used to revitalise the soil, but imported chemical preparations are shunned.

Promoters of bio-intensive farming in

the United States say it can increase yields by up to 31 times using only one quarter of the water using by the average American Farmer.

But the techniques can be used anywhere, providing sufficient manual labour is available.

Tiny suburban backyards with good water supply can provide a family's food.

But the water-conserving nature of bio-intensive farming also makes it suitable for Africa's vast arid areas, its promoters say.

Noyce believes the extraordinary productivity of bio-intensive farming is the key to Kenya's future.

"Farms have to become more productive and improve nutrition and rural employment," she said.

Kenya's 4.2 per cent annual population growth rate is among the highest in the world and the government admits that it cannot create jobs fast enough to meet the flood of young people coming onto the urban labour market.

In addition to boosting productivity, Manor House aims to make farming cheaper and more friendly to the environment.

It uses compost and special plants to fix nutrients in the soil and advocates simple home-made formulae for insect and disease control instead of conventional pesticides.

For instance, a compound of Mexican marigold petals, soap, and water can be used to control caterpillars and flies.

Another solution is to plant insect-repelling herbs and flowers alongside the food crop. Pungent dill weeds sown between rows of cabbage offer one effective combination.

Noyce does not believe that bio-intensive methods can replace mechanisation on large-scale farms, although some techniques such as deeper ploughing could be profitably adopted.

But she is adamant that bio-intensive farming offers the best hope of growing more food on small manually-worked plots.

"I would like to see every family having a garden," she said. "They could grow enough food for family nutrition and a surplus for sale."

Noyce said intensively-cultivated family plots could help low income groups become less dependent on market prices and company bosses.

Manor House wants to attract more people back to the land.

Noyce hopes the technology associated with bio-intensive farming will give a new prestige to agriculture and that the labour-intensive techniques will attract unemployed people back to rural areas which once appeared to have no room for them to make a decent living.

LEISURE

BLONDIE — By Dail Young & Salt Drake



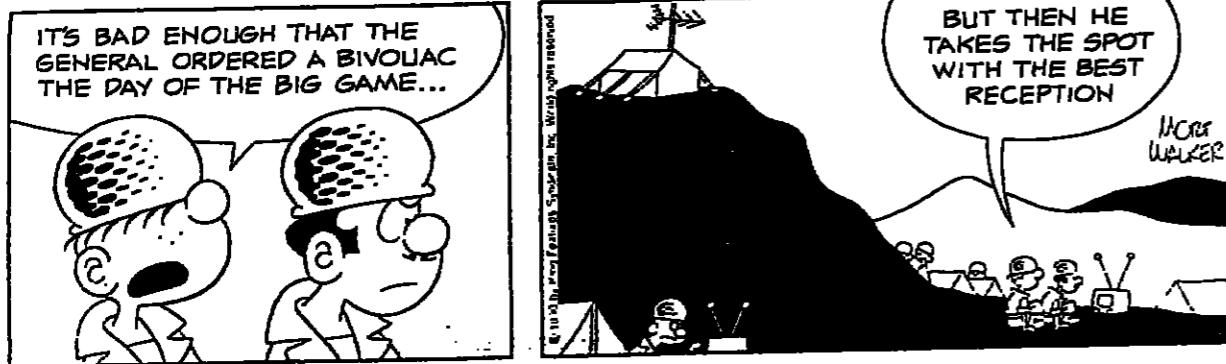
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Reiter



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP — By Jimmy Hart



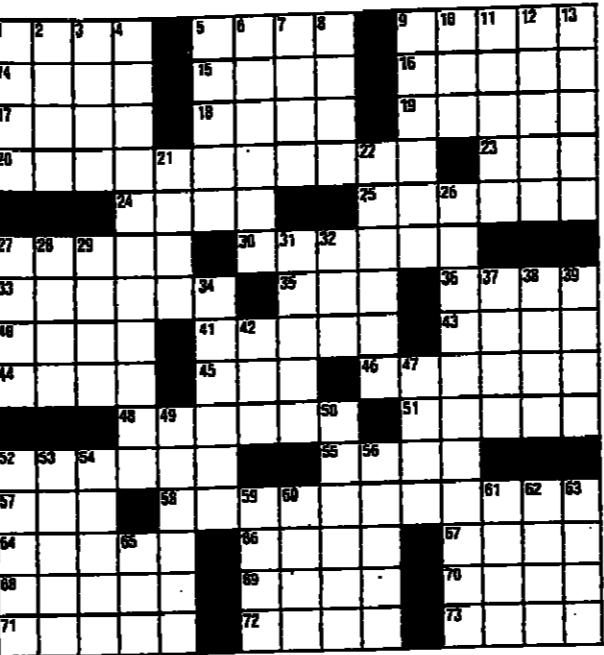
B.C. — By Jimmy Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forman & J. Shultz



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



GOLF BRIDGE

SOLITAIRE

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you passed hand that is not forcing, regardless of your methods. It is, however, highly invitational.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K10 ♦10863 ♦A4 ♦AKQJ652

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1 ♠ 1 ♠ 2 ♦ 3 ♣

What do you bid now?

A.—Some sophisticated agreements might reveal exactly what you want to know about partner's hand, but that is beyond ordinary mortals. We would gamble on the hope that partner has the ace or king of hearts and a running diamond suit, and jump to six clubs.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦A10632 ♦88 ♦A109762 ♦9

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

1 ♠ Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—It is usually wrong not to support partner's major when you have four-card support. Here, your hand is worth some 8-9 dummy points, so it surely merits a raise to two spades.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K18 ♦10863 ♦A5 ♦Q1074

The bidding has proceeded:

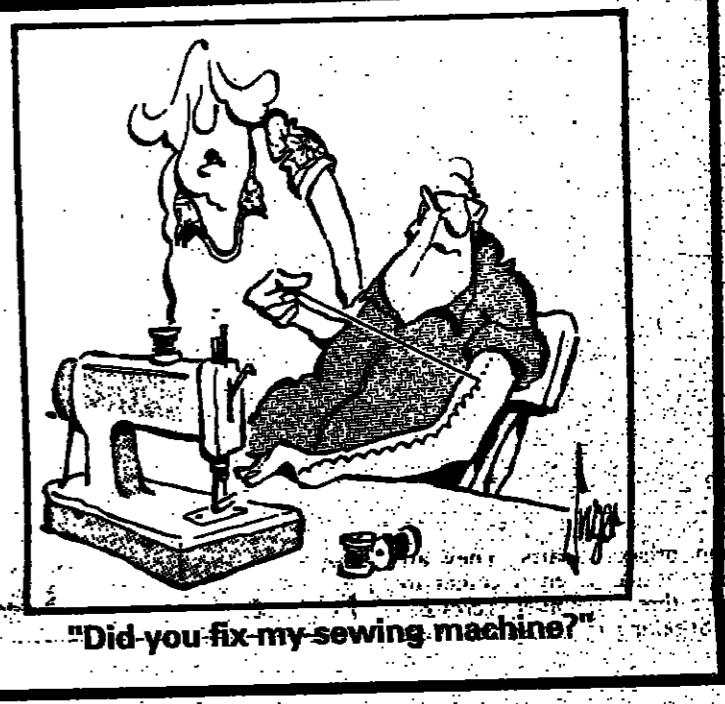
South West North East

Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—You have a pretty good hand in support of hearts. The way to show it is to jump to three hearts. By a

rebid and 2 1/2 defensive tricks. Open one spade.



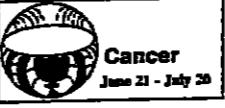
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PAICIT	PAIY	RICED
ALIII	ADEN	ADANO
TORIN	LOIMA	CANTO
HUCKLEBERRY	TEEN	
LATENCY	GARE	
NEWEST	EMIL	
ERA	SEDAN	AROSE
OSTED	ADOD	GLUEY
STERE	MARINE	PRI
ROSA	LINDEED	
H-EMS	GAZETTE	
EME	POMEGRANATE	
ROLEO	ABRI	TILED
ATOLL	TREIT	ARAG
TENSIE	ATE	LYRE

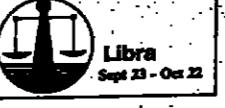
YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 19



Cancer
June 21 - July 22



Libra
Sept 23 - Oct 22



Capricorn
Dec 21 - Jan 19



Taurus
April 21 - May 20



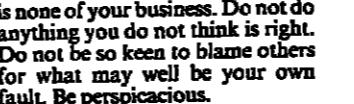
Leo
July 23 - Aug 22



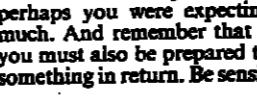
Scorpio
Oct 23 - Nov 22



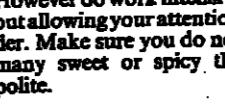
Aquarius
Jan 20 - Feb 18



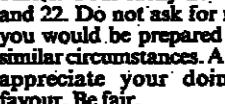
Gemini
May 21 - June 20



Virgo
Aug 23 - Sept 22



Sagittarius
Nov 23 - Dec 22



Pisces
Feb 19 - March 20



"At least try the earrings! This lot cost me \$6."



"What's the matter with you? I'm looking for my checkbook!"

'The Cloning' — a wonderful romp

The Cloning of Joanna May, by Fay Weldon (Viking, 265 pp., \$18.95)

The tongue is a little less saucy, the themes a bit more global but the wit is as Rapier-like as usual as Fay Weldon uses the concept of genetic engineering to continue her irreverent but perceptive examination of the state of relations between the sexes.

In "The Cloning of Joanna May," Carl May, British nuclear industrialist, land developer and one of the more despotic villains in recent fiction, has refused to allow his wife, Joanna, to have children. Nevertheless, he and a mad scientist colleague — Joanna's gynaecologist — manage to secretly steal one of her eggs and clone four duplicate Joannas just 30 years younger than the heroine.

Skilfully using the best conventions of the 19th century melodrama, Weldon draws the now divorced, 60-year-old Joanna and her four clones — Jane, Gina, Julie and Alice — together as mother daughters but also, in good feminist tradition, as sisters all. Both the possibilities and the pitfalls of a world where feminism has made a difference but men are still in control are looked at with Weldon's irreverent but acute eye.

"The Cloning of Joanna May" is a wonderful romp through the confusions of today's sexual landscape. Readers will enjoy it yet, with second thought, also find it sobering.

Chung Kuo, Book 1: The Middle King-

dom

By David Wingrove
(Delacorte, 592 pp., \$19.95)

You know there's something

strange about the future David Win-

grove has created when a woman

attended by what should be the best

doctors available dies in childbirth.

The year is 2190, and the entire planet Earth is Chung Kuo, Chinese for Middle Kingdom, what 20th century Westerners know as China. The woman's husband is one of the rulers of the seven huge, multilevel cities that hold just about all of humanity, and though technology has produced space colonies and androids, queens die in childbirth.

"Chung Kuo" is both an engrossing book and a future society with almost

limitless depths. Book one sets the stage for six more volumes in the series.

The drama is provided by warfare between a group called Dispersionists, who favour change and want to visit distant stars, and the seven men, who expect their progeny to rule a virtually unchanged planet for the next thousand years or so.

In some ways, this is like those wonderful Russian novels with their myriad of characters. Like those works, "Chung Kuo" provides a primer on the cast. Though Wingrove takes his time setting up the plots and people he needs to carry him through the series, much of "Chung Kuo" is edge-of-the-seat action.

A downside is the fighting described

in a wealth of detail, more than some readers might appreciate. Some also might be uncomfortable with the sexual violence aimed at women and perpetrated by boys on each other.

There is also only one female in this book who has a role other than as some man's wife, sister, sweetheart or daughter. The exception is a cameo appearance by the traditional madam with the heart of gold. In an afterword, Wingrove hints that at least a couple of the women might later become more important. But if book one is any evidence, women in "Chung Kuo" will wield no power, vastly different from their role in imperial China.

Swing Legacy, By Chip Deffaa

(Scarecrow press, 379 pp., \$39.50)

Chip Deffaa, jazz writer for the New York Post, loves the swing tradition of mainstream jazz. The tradition has a rich history and an uncertain future, though Deffaa has pinned down and celebrates the younger players.

He talks with veterans of the big bands, including Glenn Miller sideman Moe Purcell and Dorsey Brothers trumpeter Lee Castle, and neo-swing whiz kid.

The most valuable portion of the book, and that filled with the most insight, is a string of essays exploring the Count Basie band and Duke Ellington orchestra — and the very different ways in which they survive in a world of ghost bands.

With a name like

• • •

By Vernon Scott

HOLLYWOOD (UPI): With a name like Smitrovich, an actor has to be good.

Names like Smitrovich or Smuckers tend to make people hide their grins.

Maybe that's why Issur Danielovitch changed his name to Kirk Douglas, or Malden Sekulovich adopted the name Karl Maiden.

Apparently Smitrovich is made of sterner stuff. He kept his name, which now adorns the credits of the movie *Crazy People* starring Dudley Moore, as well as the TV series *Life Goes On* in the role of Drew Thatcher.

Smitrovich definitely is not getting by on his catchy name or because he is a Tom Selleck clone. So you know he's a good and capable actor who understudied 26 roles in the New York production of Arthur Miller's play *The American Clock*.

It is common for an actor to understudy one or two roles then sit around in a dressing room praying one of his fellow cast members to be struck with cholera just before the curtain rises.

But 26? How starved must an actor get before learning every word and bit of business for an entire cast? Including one black character? And what if everyone was felled by the flu? Would Smitrovich have been called upon to put on a one-man show?

Undaunted with his death wish to become an actor, Smitrovich accepted the challenge and encamped himself in the dressing room.

"It was my first professional credit and I would have done anything," he said. "I'd have understudied 56 roles if necessary."

I had the advantage of sitting in the audience watching rehearsals, so I knew the flow of the story and the performances. There weren't 26 actors to begin with. All the actors played several parts, which meant if one of them got sick, then I might have to play three or four parts as the understudy.

As it happened, several days after opening night the lead got sick and I filled in for two or three performances. It was the biggest high of my life."

Happily, the lead actor did not suffer cholera and Smitrovich returned to waiting for another act of divine intervention.

Providence provided. Later in the run another actor, this one 20 years older, fell ill and Smitrovich jumped into the breach once again.

"I was definitely prepared to play any role, no matter how elderly," he said. "I was even prepared to play the black role, but as another minority. I had the talent to pull it off, but today I couldn't do it."

In *Crazy People* Smitrovich plays a single character, a guy named Price, a crazy person, illustrated in a laughing academy.

"Price is a conglomerate of a lot of people I knew when I worked in a veterans' hospital and with mentally and emotionally damaged children," he said.

"But this movie isn't an introduction into mental health. I know quite a bit about mental health. I've been involved with that problem over the years. This picture doesn't make fun of such people. I take it all very personally."

"The film walks the line and we hope no one will take offence. After all, I work with Chris Burke in *Life Goes On* every week. Chris is retarded and we are very good friends. He's a wonderful young man."

"This movie is an allegory, a fantasy about an advertising executive (Moore) who tells the truth about his client products, so naturally everyone thinks he's crazed."

"When they put him in the sanitarium the residents help him write hilariously truthful ads, which are a great success. It's a lot of fun."

The inmates are an interesting ensemble of guys with various quirks and disorders. They could be compared to the group in *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* but I don't like that because *Cuckoo's Nest* was dark and introspective. This is a luxury sanitarium for well-to-do eccentrics."

"We function as sort of a joke-telling unit that comes up with the incredibly funny ad campaigns."

There were some not-so-funny things about *Crazy People*, including the fact that John Malkovich starred as the avid ad man for three weeks before he was replaced by Dudley Moore, and Tony Bill took over as a director from Mitch Markowitz.

When it comes to love — three is definitely a crowd

Agonies of being the other woman



That infernal triangle — husband (Michael Douglas), wife (Anne Archer) and lover (Glenn Close) from "Fatal Attraction".



Author Caroline Buchanan was the "other woman" for six years.



Wife and Mistress TV series Coronation Street's Deirdre Barlow (Ann Kirkbride) confronts Wendy Crozier (Roberta Kerr).

Tell-tale signs

Caroline has identified several tell-tale signs that could mean a husband, or wife, is having an affair. Suspicions can be checked against the following habits:

- For her, watch out if:
- He always makes sure he's the first one down for the post in the morning.
- He suddenly starts buying himself lots of jazzy new underwear.
- He takes a new interest in his appearance and launches into exotic ranges of aftershave and skincare lotion.
- He develops new tastes in music or food, or new opinions on long-held beliefs.
- His sexual behaviour changes dramatically. Either he goes off the idea altogether or he becomes

more enthusiastic. Or fluctuates between the two: He reminds you of a film you supposedly saw together — and you don't know what he's talking about.

- For him, watch out if:
- She loses half a stone in weight, gets her first haircut in years and starts experimenting with makeup.
- Goes shopping for hours — and returns with nothing except a pair of tights.
- Her girlfriend, sister, mother starts to have emotional crises and she has to rush round to help.
- She starts going to the gym at the same time every week but her cellulite keeps getting worse.
- She buys a new dress and, for the first time in years, doesn't ask your opinion.

Sometimes they secretly want to be unfaithful themselves and they get a second-hand thrill from watching their husbands have affairs. It may sound unlikely but experts assure me it's true.

"Probably the commonest reason is that they have low self-esteem and feel they don't deserve any better from life. Wives can be so downtrodden, they just accept what's dished at them without question."

Caroline believes from her own experience that triangles can only be destroyed when all three people involved confront the problem. She told me: "I'm not trying to make an apology for myself but I think my own affair would have ended more quickly if my wife had stood up to me."

"I spoke to her on the phone just once and I asked, 'Do you

suspected in a gaseous solution of two types of freon and methanol.

In a process marketed by Wei T-O Associates of Mateson, Illinois, books are dried in a vacuum chamber, saturated with the liquid gas for an hour and then dried overnight. The National Library of Canada has used the Wei T-O process since 1981, but observers say the project does not treat enough volumes at a time to justify a large programme.

The Library of Congress will seek bids next year for a long-term de-acidification project.

Chemicals may give new life to books

turns the pages so brittle that they crumble at the touch.

"People started to realise there was a problem some 50 years ago — a book will deteriorate in as little as 50 years. Seldom will they last much more than a hundred," said Richard Miller, de-acidification project director for Akzo Chemicals.

Before 1850 books were printed on durable paper made from rag-derived linen, Miller said.

But later wood pulp was used as an economical alternative.

The aluminium sulphate used to break down the cellulose in the wood pulp eventually breaks down into a caustic acid in the paper and as a result most books printed after 1850 carry the seeds of their own destruction.

Miller estimates that one million rotting books in research libraries around the world can be preserved for future use by

chemical treatment.

Research has yielded several chemical processes for stabilising the acid in books which could extend their shelf life for hundreds of years. But the challenge has been to adapt the technology of treating a book page by page at a cost of up to \$1,000 a book to treating hundreds of volumes at a time for less than \$10 each.

In a research project co-ordinated

by Akzo, developed a mass de-acidification process using diethyl zinc (dez) gas, Millers said.

Books are loaded into a chamber and treated with the gas under high pressure so that it permeates the pages even with the books closed and stacked on shelves.

The problem Akzo has had to overcome is that dez is very volatile and can ignite when it comes into contact with oxygen.

Jim Hieserman, vice president of marketing for Chicago-based Lithium Corp, said his company is introducing a process which de-acidifies and strengthens the paper.

This should allow the recovery of some volumes that are too brittle to be handled, he said.

Another process, named Wei T-O after the ancient Chinese god who protects books, uses an organic magnesium carbonate

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FARWANIYA, besides ration shop, Advani Building, behind the telephone exchange. One room for one/two Goan/Indian bachelors. No family in the flat. Rent KD60-. Tel. 4714911 ext 35.

KUWAIT CITY, Sharq behind the Firdous Cinema. House No 87. Rooms in a Arabic type villa for Indian, Filipino, Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi families only. Contact Francis personally after 2pm. (AT-52254-3)

EUROPEAN style villa for sale in Salwa. 2 story, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, diningroom, livingroom, nice garden, mulhaq. Rent KD 500/- Tel. 5630862. (AT-52223-3)

SALMIYAH, opp Salmiyah Health Club, Bldg No 69, Flat No 2, one room, for two Goan bachelors to share with a Goan family. Tel. 5710932 after 12 pm. (AT-52255-3)

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KUWAIT City, Fahd Al Salem Street Behind GPO, sharing accommodation available in a spacious CAC room of a 2-Bed room flat with water and electricity for a couple or 2 bachelors. Tele. Huda, 2422597/8, 9 am to 12.30 pm, 7.30 pm - 10.30 pm. (AT-52244-3)

BAGHDAD Street, Salmiyah, Bldg. No. 131, Flat No. 12 (ground floor). One room with water and electricity for a couple or two working ladies to share with a family. Rent KD65-. Tel. Bonny Kumar, 5625811, 5625769, 4 - 10 pm only. (AT-52247-3)

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RESULTS

Millwall relegated, Liverpool draw

Villa close gap at top

LONDON, April 15. (Reuters): Aston Villa closed the gap on Liverpool at the top of the English Soccer League to one point with a win over Chelsea yesterday while the leaders were held to a draw at home by Nottingham Forest.

Liverpool, knocked out of the FA Cup semifinals last weekend, lost a two-goal halftime lead as Forest, defeated in six of their last seven games, rallied with two goals in eight minutes in the second half.

Gordon Cowans scored in the 12th minute to give Villa a 1-0 home win which ended Chelsea's 11-match unbeaten run and moved his side on to 65 points, one behind Liverpool who have a game in hand.

Arsenal, whose chances of retaining their title all but vanished with Wednesday's 1-0 home defeat by Villa, drew 1-1 at FA Cup finalists Crystal Palace to stay fourth, 12 points behind Liverpool with five games remaining.

Third-place Everton came back from two goals down to draw 2-2 at Luton and remain one point ahead of Arsenal.

Luton, third from bottom of Division One, slide further into relegation trouble as the sides directly above them — Manchester United and Manchester City — both won to increase the gap to seven points.

Bottom club Millwall were relegated when they lost 2-0 at Derby.

Liverpool fans released 95 red balloons at halftime to mark today's first anniversary of the Hillsborough disaster in which 96 fans died at the start of their FA Cup semifinal against Nottingham Forest.

The League leaders had set off



Arsenal's Steve Bould (right) struggles for the ball with an unidentified Palace player. (Reuters wirephoto)

at a blistering pace in the first half and rocked Forest with two goals in three minutes as they appeared determined to wipe away the memory of last Sunday's Cup defeat by Palace.

Israeli striker Ronny Rosenthal, on loan from Belgian club Standard Liege, scored the first in the 12th minute — his fourth in two games following his midweek hat-trick at Charlton — England midfielder Steve McManaman added the second.

But Forest, experiencing their worst run during manager Brian Clough's 15-year reign, slowly fought their way back.

First, Steve Hodge pulled one back with his 14th goal of the season after Ian Rush lost possession to Nigel Clough in midfield and then Nigel Jenson brought Forest level in the 70th

minute with his fourth goal of the season.

Captain Stuart Pearce, returning after missing two games through injury, twice cleared shots off the line — the second in the final minutes — with goalkeeper Mark Crossley, replacing the out-of-favour Steve Sutton, well beaten.

Villa midfielder Cowans kept his side's championship challenge alive with only his third goal of the season, while Paul McGrath marshalled the defence as they sat back and defended their lead.

Tony Cascarino, Villa's £1.5 million (\$2.4 million) buy who has not scored in his first six games, set up the goal when Chelsea keeper Dave Beasant failed to hold his shot.

At the bottom of the table

Millwall, without a win since they beat Villa in December, were sumbys by two headed goals from Mick Harford at Derby.

Their drop to the Second division after two seasons in the first was sealed when Manchester City and Manchester United both won.

United came back from a goal down to win 2-1 at Queen's Park Rangers. Mark Robins, whose goal against Oldham on Wednesday put United into the FA Cup final, came on as substitute again and scored their first after 68 minutes. He then made the second for Neil Webb in the 75th.

Neighbours City also had substitute Adrian Heath to thank for their 2-1 win at home to fellow strugglers Sheffield Wednesday. Heath scored in the 77th minute, two minutes after coming on, and eight minutes after Wednesday had qualified.

United and City moved above Wednesday and Palace.

Charlton staged a fightback after going 3-0 down at Southampton but lost 3-2 and look set to join Millwall in the Second Division next season. They are 10 points adrift of Wednesday with four games left.

Luton have a huge fight on their hands to retain First Division status after squandering a two-goal lead against Everton. They are six points behind Wednesday, the club above them, but have a game in hand.

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SPORTS

W. Indies batsmen put England attack to sword

Greenidge, Haynes slam tons



W. Indies' Courtney Walsh raises his arm after dismissing Gladstone Small. (Reuter wirephoto)

ST JOHN'S, Antigua, April 15, (Reuter): Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes each plundered unbeaten centuries off a lacklustre England attack to put West Indies finished on 228 for no wicket when bad light ended play.

After England had been dismissed for 260 in their first innings shortly after lunch on the second day, the pair ton the touring team's attack to shreds as West Indies finished on 228 for no wicket when bad light ended play.

Greenidge, playing in his 100th Test, ended unbeaten on 118 with Haynes 101 not out. The pair set a West Indian record for the first wicket against England, beating the previous best of 206 set by Roy Fredericks and Lawrence Rowe in Kingston in 1974.

Their century stand came up in the 23rd over and they passed the 200 mark in the 45th.

Greenidge was slightly the faster, reaching three figures 13 minutes ahead of Haynes in just over four hours. He struck two sixes and 11 fours while Haynes had one six and 16 fours in his century.

The batting onslaught came after England had lost their last four wickets after resuming at 203 for six — and after West Indies captain Viv Richards had

been involved in an astonishing outburst against a British journalist.

Instead of leading his team on to the field at the start of play, Richards appeared in the press box and berated the journalist over his report of an incident during the first day's play on Thursday.

"You hurt people when you write these things and when you hurt people they get angry. Nobody should get in my way at the moment," Richards said. He rejoined the match shortly afterwards.

The West Indies captain was reported in the British press to have made rude gestures towards English supporters following the dismissal of visiting captain Allan Lamb.

West Indies manager Clive Lloyd said later no statement on the incident would be issued until after the Test had ended.

However, the row was soon overshadowed by the brilliance of Greenidge and Haynes. They were both in vintage form and posted the 50 in only the 11th over. The century stand was the 14th they have shared.

For the England bowlers it was agony. David Capel was hit for 64 runs in 11 overs, Gladstone Small 67 in 14 and Devon Malcolm 55 in two balls short of 15.

Fast bowler Ian Bishop took

three of the last four England wickets to finish with five for 84.

He had Jack Russell caught behind for seven and DeFreitas lbw for 21. After Courtney Walsh dismissed Small for eight, Bishop wrapped up the innings when he ended Nasser Hussain's three hours of defiance by having him caught behind for 35.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND first innings (overnight 203 for six)

A. Stewart c Richards B Walsh 27
W. Larink c Hooper b Ambrose 30
R. Bailey c Dujon b Bishop 42
A. Lamb c Richards b Ambrose 37
R. Smith lbw b Walsh 12
N. Hussain c Dujon b Bishop 35
D. Capel c Haynes b Bishop 10
J. Russell c Dujon b Bishop 7
P. DeFreitas lbw b Bishop 21
G. Small lbw b Walsh 8
D. Malcolm not out 0
Extras (b-5 l-11 w-15) 31
Total 260

Fall of wickets: 1-42 2-101 3-143 4-167 5-195 6-212 8-242 9-259

Bowling: Bishop 28.1-6-84-5,

Ambrose 29.5-7-92, Walsh 21-4-51.3,

Baptiste 13.4-30-0.

WEST INDIES first innings

G. Greenidge not out 118
D. Haynes not out 101
Extras (b-11 w-8) 9
Total (no wicket) 228

To bat: V. Richards, R. Richardson,

A. Logie, C. Hooper, J. Dujon, E. Baptiste, C. Ambrose, I. Bishop, C. Walsh.

Bowling to date: Small 14-0-57-0,

Malcolm 14.4-1-55-0, Capel 11-1-64-0, DeFreitas 12-2-41-0.



Sanchez returns a shot to Graf. (Reuter wirephoto)

Graf and Sanchez win

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla., April 15, (Reuter): Top-ranked Steffi Graf survived a scare yesterday to keep her winning streak alive and reach the final of the \$350,000 Amelia Island women's open clay court tournament against No. 3 Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario of Spain.

Graf struggled past fifth-seeded Natalia Zvereva of the Soviet Union 7-6 7-6 6-1, while Sanchez Vicario ousted number two seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina 6-4 6-0 to set up a rematch of last year's French Open final, won by the Spaniard.

Since losing to Sanchez Vicario in Paris, Graf has been invincible. But the West German, competing here after missing two months with a broken thumb, was pressed to the limit by Zvereva before registering her 56th successive match victory.

Graf's serve was broken five times by Zvereva and the West German also squandered a match point in the second set.

"Today, I was too defensive and yesterday (in a 6-4 6-4 win over Canadian Carling Bassett-Seguso) I was too aggressive," said Graf, 20. "I just didn't have the balance in my game. I'm not doing the right things on the court."

Zvereva registered here as a Norwegian and playing in West Germany as a professional, beat the second-seeded Sweden 21-16 19-21 23-21 14-21 21-14 in the second round.

On a bad day for Sweden, who retained their men's team crown earlier in the week, fifth seed Erik Lindh also went out, beaten in four games by Greek Calin Creanga, ranked 99 places below him.

Lindh, 1988 Olympic bronze medallist, was disappointed with himself for a lack of concentration.

"I didn't change my tactics enough," Lindh added after being beaten 10-21 22-20 21-14 24-22 by Creanga, ranked 106th in the world.

Two other top Swedes, defending champion Mikael Appelgren and world gold medallist Jan-Ove Waldner, made the third round without dropping a game.

Waldner beat Qian Qianli, another China-born player who represents Austria, 21-19 21-13 22-20 while Appelgren saw off West German Torben Wosik 21-17 21-16 21-12.



Graf sends a forehand return to Zvereva. (Reuter wirephoto)

the tiebreak, but Zvereva won the next five points and served for the set. But Graf tied it on a backhand volley.

Each player had another set point in the tiebreak, but couldn't capitalise. Graf went ahead 9-8 when Zvereva netted a backhand winner and then won it on an overhead winner.

Zvereva said Graf could be beaten by Sanchez Vicario in today's final.

"At the times when Steffi is not playing her best, everybody will have many chances to beat her," Zvereva said.

Zvereva had plenty of chances herself.

Graf twice served for the first set and had four set points, but squandered each of them on errors. She rolled to a 5-1 lead in

the tiebreak, but Zvereva won the next five points and served for the set. But Graf tied it on a backhand volley.

Each player had another set point in the tiebreak, but couldn't capitalise. Graf went ahead 9-8 when Zvereva netted a backhand winner and then won it on an overhead winner.

Zvereva charged to a 5-1 in the second set, but was tiring. When Graf won five straight games to lead 6-5, it looked over.

Graf served for the first point in the 12th game and held serve to force another tiebreak.

From 3-3, Zvereva won four of the last five points helped by Graf's backhand errors.

"It is strange to see Arantxa winning this tournament," Sanchez Vicario said. "I'm not scared of Steffi. I know how she plays and I know what I have to do to beat her."

Sanchez Vicario, a newcomer, surprised Sabatini, who had won eight of their nine career meetings.

"It is strange to see Arantxa winning this tournament," Sanchez Vicario said. "I'm not scared of Steffi. I know how she plays and I know what I have to do to beat her."

She never came to the net before. But I think she is a dangerous player coming to the net because her volley is good."

Indian team to play in Sharjah tourney

NEW DELHI, April 15, (Reuter): India's cricketers have been given the go-ahead by their government to play against Pakistan despite border skirmishes between the two neighbouring states.

A government spokesman said permission had been given for India to compete in the Sharjah Cup tournament after ordering them to withdraw on Friday because of clashes along a disputed border area in Kashmir.

He said the team had been promised additional security in Dubai during the tournament.

India and Pakistan, who fought three wars since becoming independent from Britain in 1947, are currently engaged in a war of words over Kashmir, the cause of two of the wars.

India has accused Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri militants fighting for independence in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state.

Nevertheless, the Lancians left Eldoret in second and third places, with Jutta Kankkunen of Finland behind Biasion.

The third Lancian of Italy's Alessandro Fiorio succumbed to mud and mechanical breakdown before reaching Eldoret yesterday.

Mikael Ericsson of Sweden was fourth in a Toyota, Carlos Sainz of Spain fifth, also in a Toyota, and Kenyan Jim Heather Hayes sixth in a Subaru Legacy.

Seventh placed was Kenjiro Shimozuka of Japan in a Mitsubishi Galant.

Rudolf Stohl of Austria, in an Audi 90 Quattro, was eighth followed by Kenyan Patrick Njiru in a Subaru Legacy.

Daihatsu Charades of Ken-

ians Steve Anthony and Ashok Patti held tenth and eleventh

positions respectively, while a Toyota driven by Yasuniro Iwase of Japan trailed — 15

hours 17 minutes 53 seconds

behind Waldegard in penalty points.

Respect Boston marathon course, say top runners

BOSTON, April 15, (UPI): If runners at the Boston marathon lack restraint or knowledge, they will certainly receive a lesson in pain, say the top entrants in tomorrow's race.

"If you don't respect the course, it's deadly," John Campbell said yesterday.

"You've got to keep your head about you and not go out too fast in the first three or four miles."

Campbell, from New Zealand, finished sixth in the marathon two years ago.

"If you go too fast on the downhills, you'll feel fast and feel invincible," said Jim Jones, who was third last year. "But then at the hills your quads (quadriceps) give out."

The 26.2-mile course starts in Hopkinton at an elevation of 490 feet and immediately proceeds downhill. The stretch of hills between 16 and 22 miles hits the runners as fatigue is setting in.

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The uphills come at a particularly trying point in the race — and the uphills can kill you," said Burfoot, who says this race demands a precisely timed strategy.



Ikangaa: favourite Boston marathons.

"The last five miles is the critical part," Ikangaa said.

"Last year I started to get fatigued because of not distribution my strength evenly over the course. I must be very careful."

Amby Burfoot, the 1988 winner at Boston, says that if a runner does not know the grueling course, "he's facing serious pain trouble and leg cramps. There have been a lot of 2:10 marathoners who came here and took three hours to finish."

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Edberg wins Japan Open

Lindqvist takes women's title



Edberg shows off his trophy. (Reuter wirephoto)

TOKYO, April 15, (Reuter): Defending champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden beat American Aaron Krickstein 6-4 7-5 in the final of the \$1.5 million Japan Open tennis tournament today. It was his second success of the year.

Edberg, who dropped only one set on the way to his 22nd singles crown, took 90 minutes to overcome Krickstein and collect the \$137,500 winner's cheque.

Fourth-seeded Krickstein, who knocked out top seed and world number one Ivan Lendl in the semifinals, took an early 4-2 lead in the first set with his powerful serves and cross-court winners.

Second seed Edberg, playing a solid serve-and-volley game, broke Krickstein in the seventh game and went on to take the next three games with some unreturnable first serves.

"I never gave up today and I had a good chance. I wanted very badly to win. I served better than him," said former Wimbledon champion Edberg.

Krickstein, who won the Scottsdale classic last month, built a 4-2 lead in the second set as Edberg committed a series of volley errors, but the world number two quickly broke back.

"I feel very good about my tennis. I have a chance at being number one this year," said Edberg.

Krickstein, ranked seventh in the world, said he failed to make the most of the openings. "I had a good chance to win either one of

the sets. I wasn't aggressive enough when I had to be," he said.

Top women's seed Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden, ranked

34th, won her first tournament of the year and sixth career singles title with a comfortable 6-3 6-2 victory over 52nd-ranked Elizabeth Smylie of Australia.

She registered here as a Norwegian and playing in West Germany as a professional, beat the second-seeded Sweden 21-16 19-21 23-21 14-21 21-14 in the second round.

On a bad day for Sweden, who retained their men's team crown earlier in the week, fifth seed Erik Lindh also went out, beaten in four games by Greek Calin Creanga, ranked 99 places below him.

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